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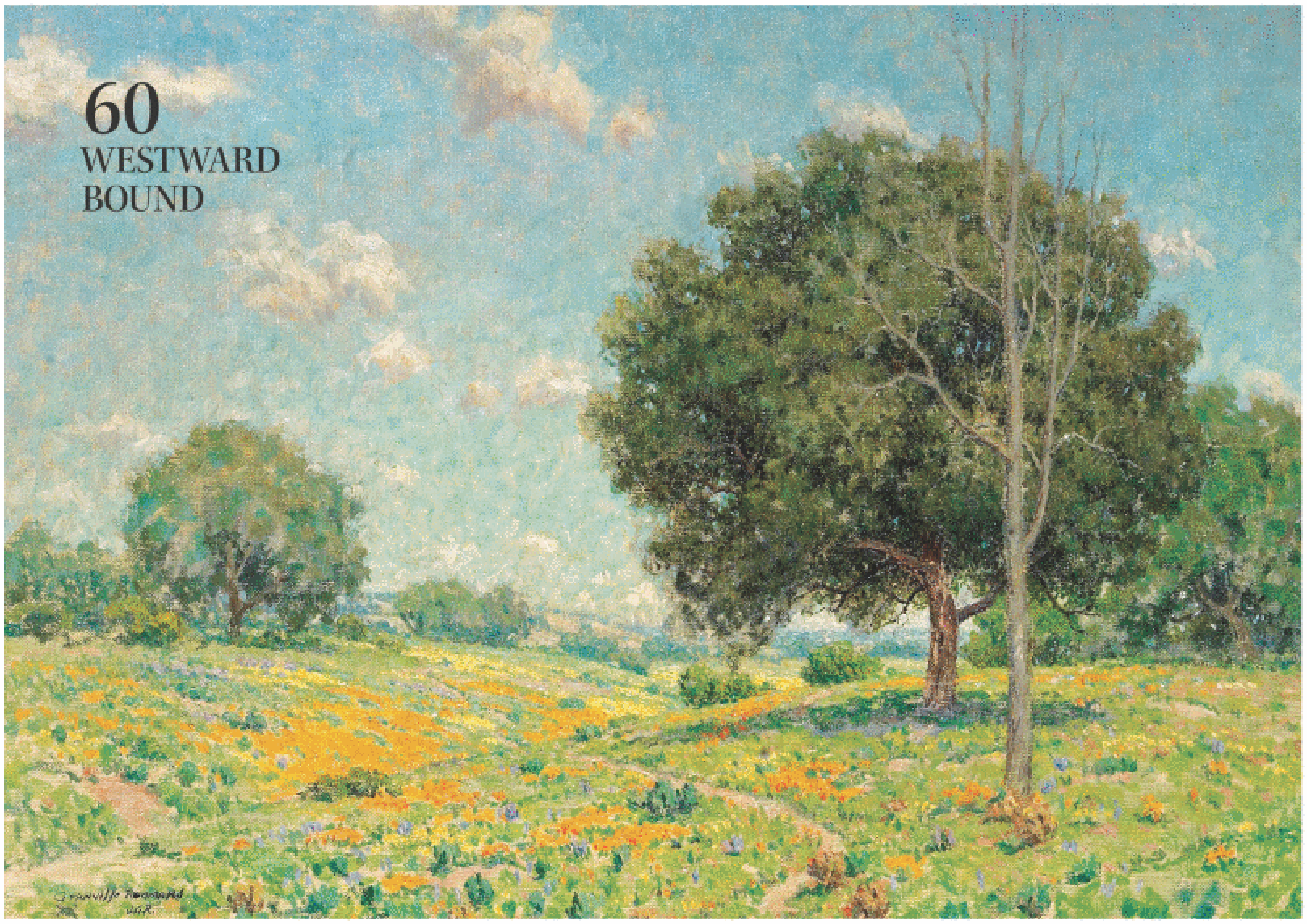

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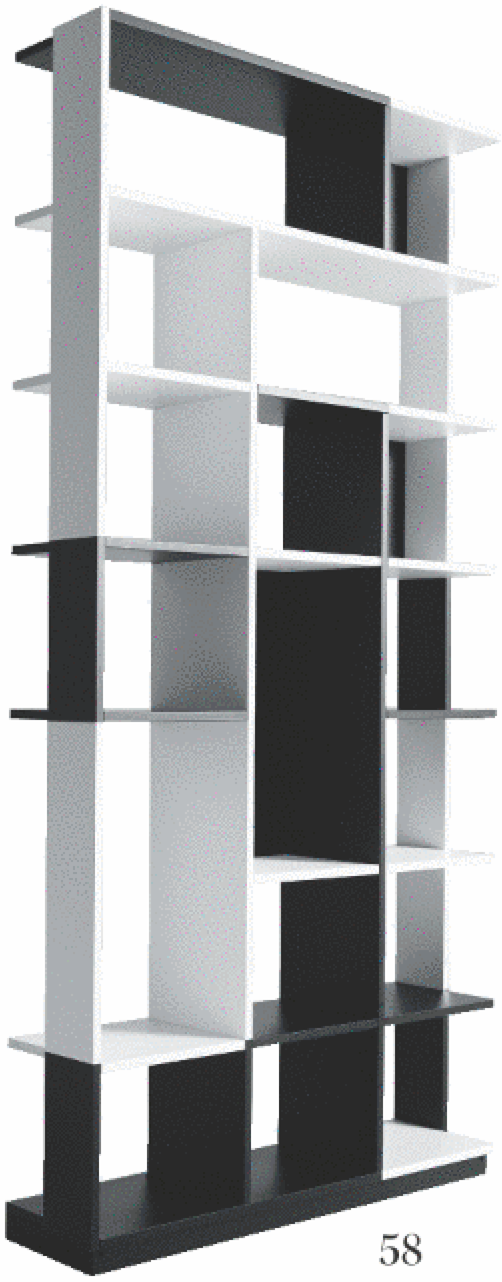

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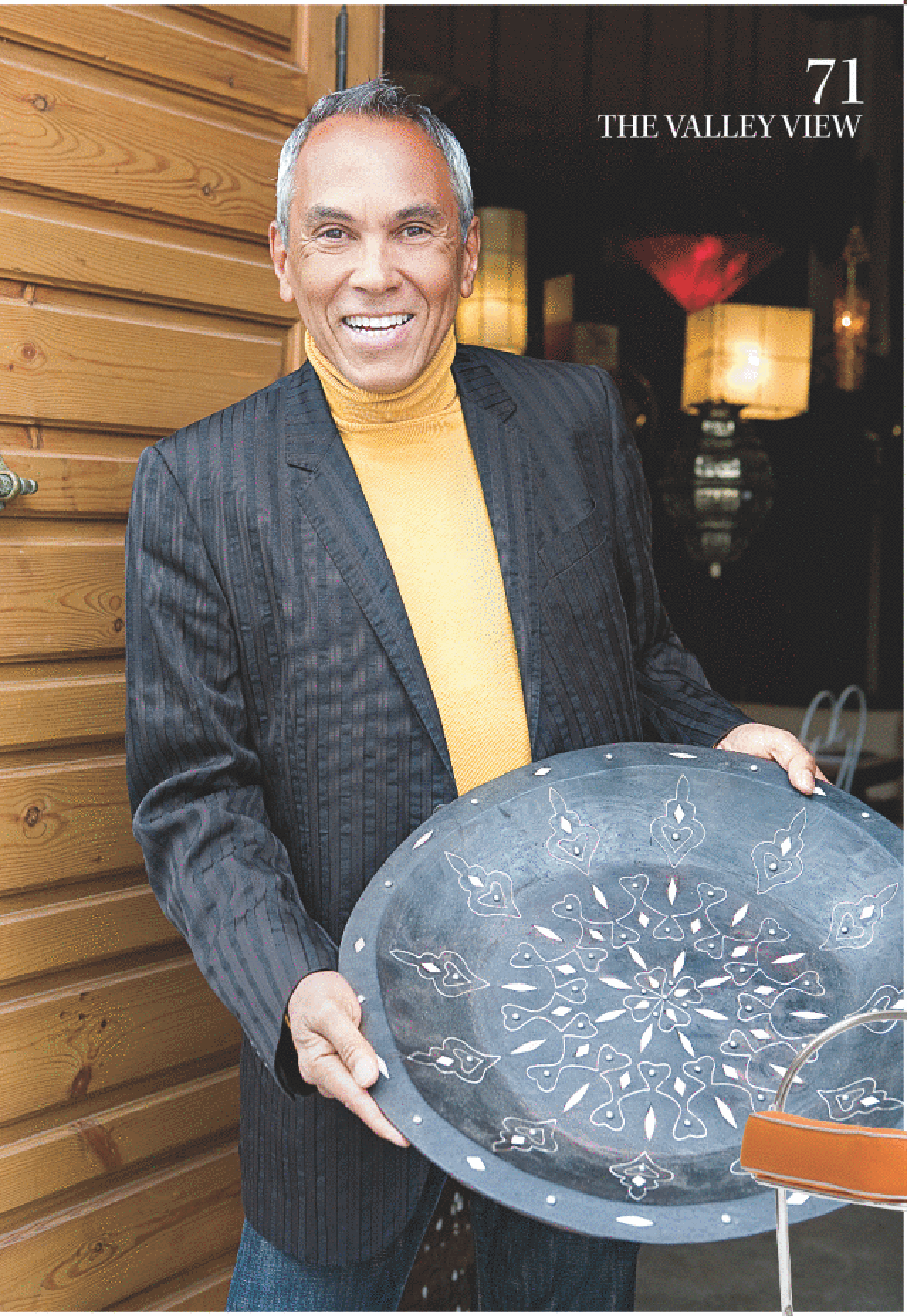

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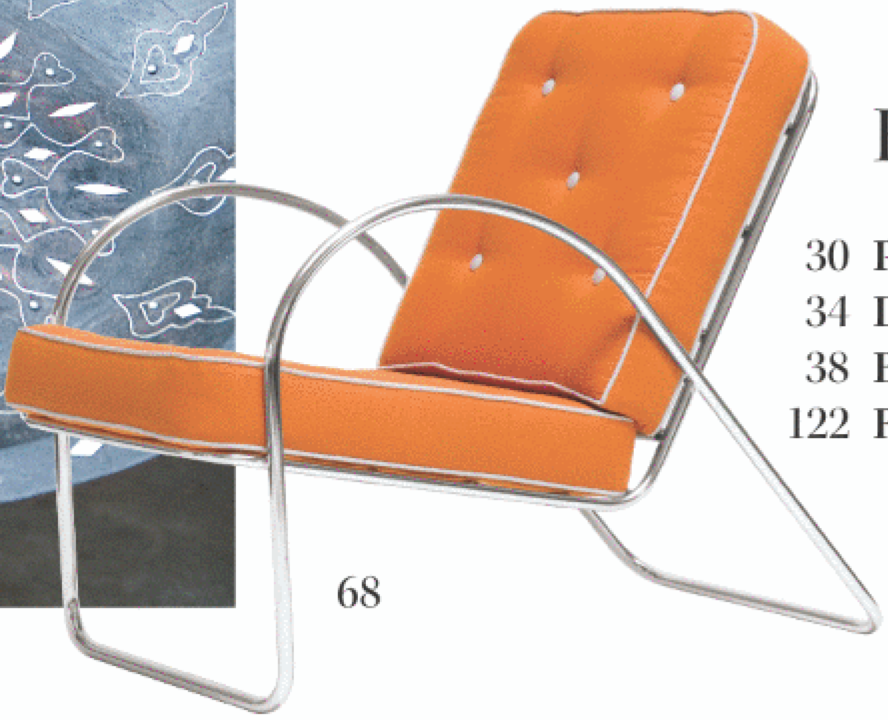

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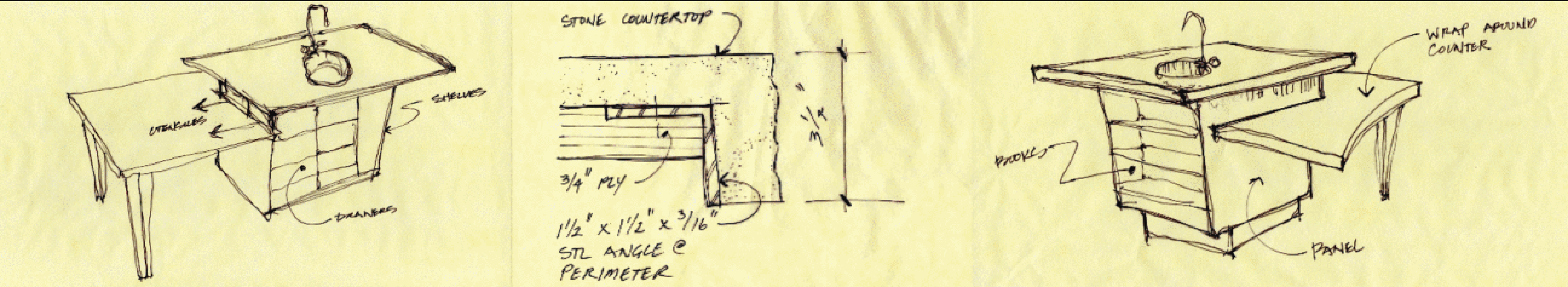

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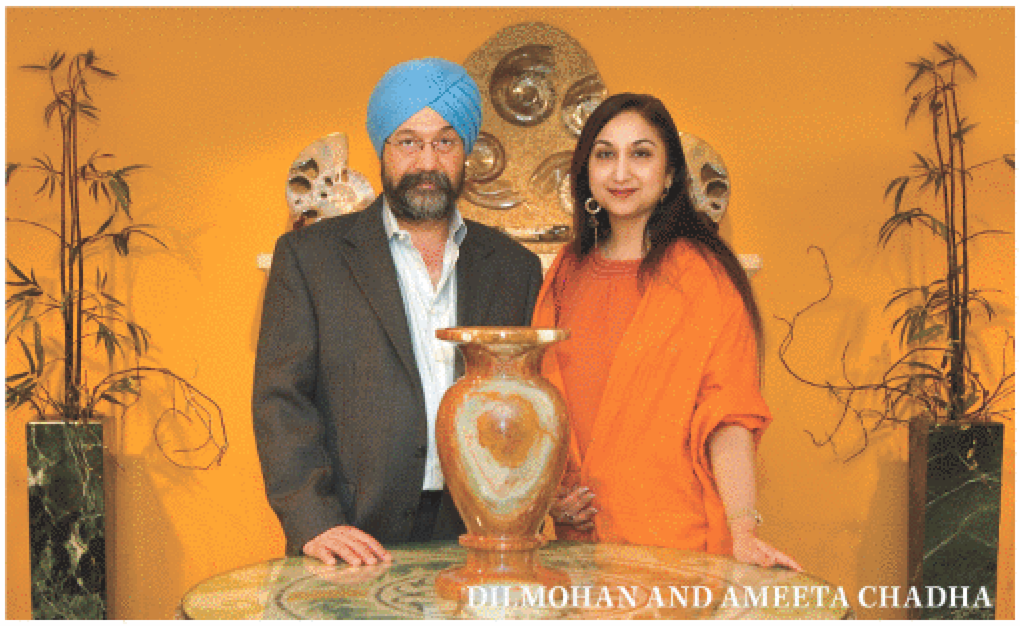

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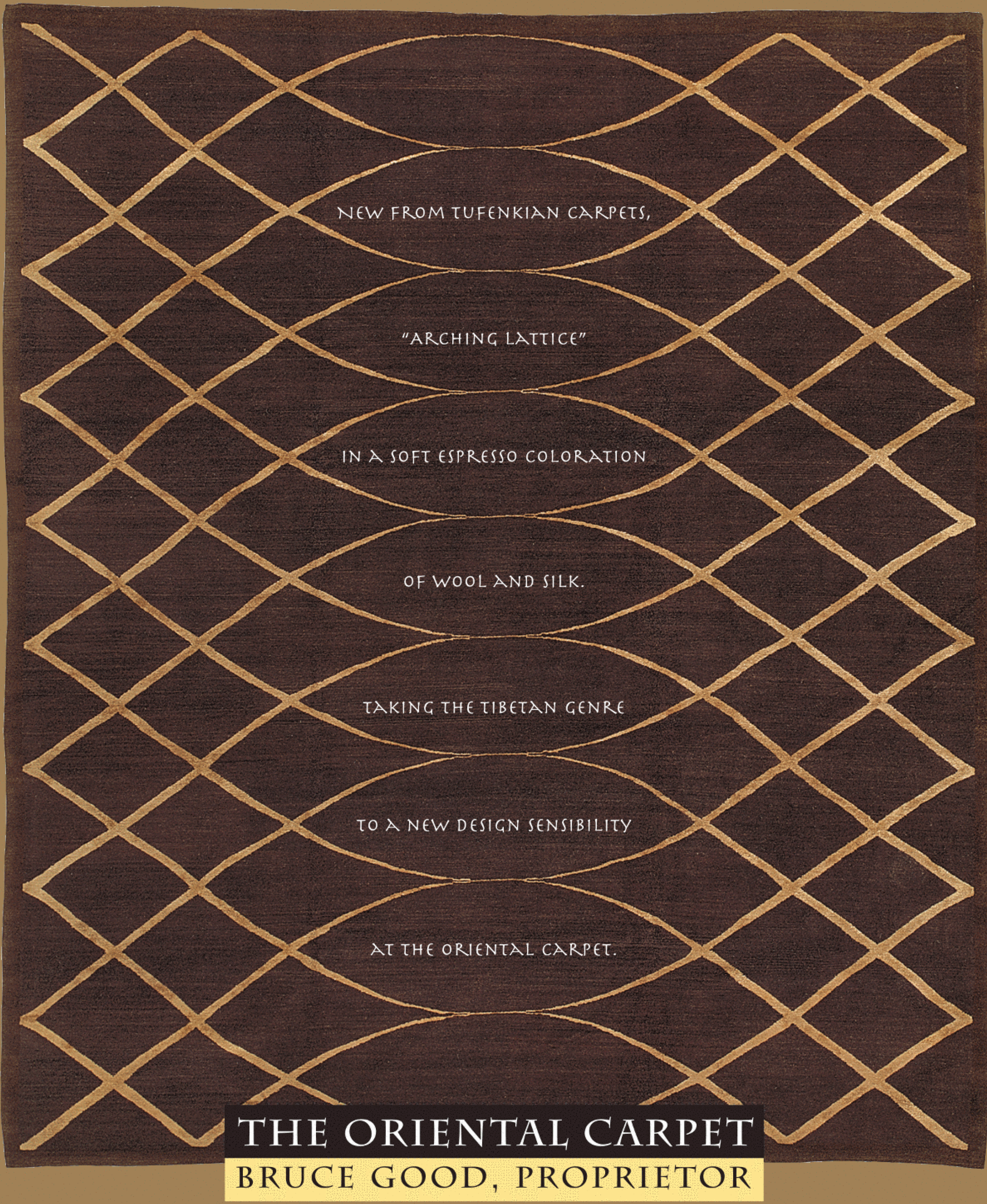

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PACING OURSELVES

Whether you're talking about the renovation of a house or the redesign of a magazine, the first question is the same: Get started with the most necessary changes and tackle the rest down the road, or do it all at once? I've always been a firm believer of taking your time and doing it right. But often that means waiting, and everyone knows that's no fun. As the renovation stories in this issue demonstrate, once you start listing necessary changes, items such as "paint color," "kitchen cabinets" and "powder-room wallpaper" begin to appear after a few of the absolute necessities are out of the way. But as anyone who loves style knows, necessity is a relative concept.

CLAUDE SHADE

The same holds true for any creative endeavor. As our team discusses updates to the website or look of *California Home + Design*, the agreed-upon, direly needed improvements soon give way to a lengthy wish list that begins, "Wouldn't it be cool if...?" Before I answer, I tend to waver between two answers to that question. The voice of prudence says, "Wait a minute, let's start with the highest priorities first." But my instinct always pipes in with, "Yes, very cool, if we're going to start making changes, let's go all the way."

Looking at the successful soup-to-nuts remodels throughout this issue, I'm tempted toward the latter. But you, dear reader, will soon find out which voice wins out. Keep an eye on these pages and our website, *chdmag.com*.

Enjoy the issue,

Heather

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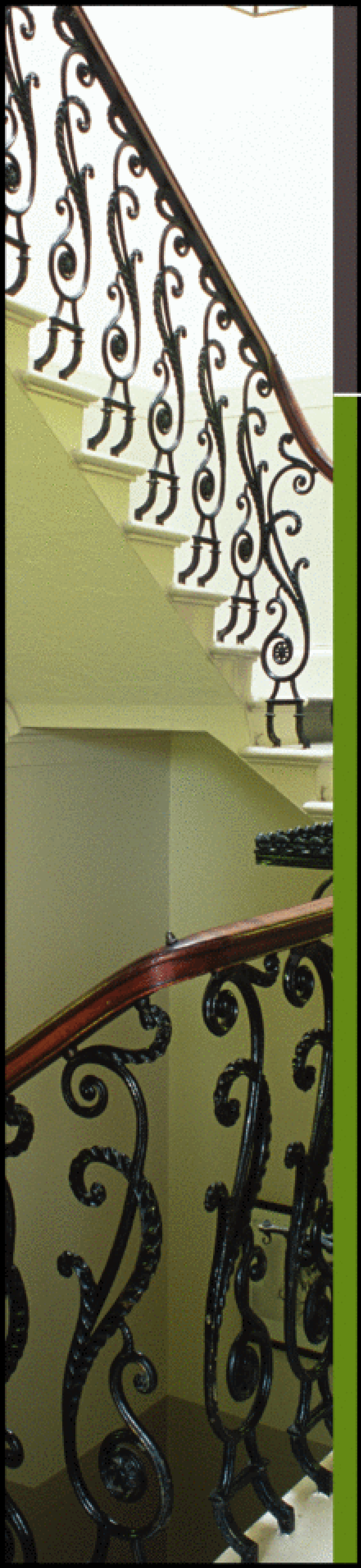

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At Alain Pinel Realtors, our hallmark is perspective. So while headlines trumpet a national "lending crisis" and "plunging real estate prices," the fact is that many of the Bay Area's mature neighborhoods remain strong.

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- *In the last 10 years, Bay Area homes have appreciated more than 175%**
- *On average, homes have doubled in value every 6.6 years**
- *Mortgage rates continue to remain near 25-year lows***

If you're considering selling or buying a home, call us. Get the facts. And make your decision based on Bay Area market reality.

* *Source:* DataQuick 1997-2007

** *Source:* Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation 30-year Fixed Conventional Rates

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STATE OF GRACE

For a design magazine representing a state as vast and diverse as California, the people are everything. I'm not only referring to the designers and architects, but the contractors, retailers, art dealers, photographers and photo stylists. Putting together our magazine each month means working with a network of design insiders, and this month's issue is a direct result of such collaborations. Upon hearing about our annual "before-and-after" issue, photographer Angie Silvy suggested featuring the desert getaway of Trace Wilson ("Lost and Found," p. 88), whose "before" photos included circa-1960s snapshots of his grandfather practicing his putt in the living room. Designer Molly Luetkemeyer took on a Bel Air remodel ("Retro Finished," p. 102) as a favor to an old friend—and it came to *CH+D* by way of friend and contributor, stylist Char Hatch Langos. And this month's feature on new desks ("Out of Office," p. 110) was produced in record time, thanks to the teamwork of *CH+D*'s edit staff and photographer Stan Musilek, who shot on location at San Francisco's Julius Kahn Park.

Over the past month, I've come to appreciate how exceptional the California design community is. While in New York for the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, running into familiar faces from past issues—Concreteworks' Mark Rogero (pictured at left), Philip Wood of Citizen:Citizen and Derek Chen of Council, to name a few—amid designers from all over the world was a testament to our state's presence on the international scene. Two weeks later, I headed to Los Angeles to moderate a panel about "Living with Art" at the Pacific Design Center. The panelists included art consultant Ann Harmsen, interior designers Katerina Tana and Christine Kilian (who was relieved from jury duty just in time) along with gallery owner Paul Kopeikin (who stepped up with just a few days notice, in case Kilian couldn't make it). With all four of them casually seated on the edge of the stage, the lively discussion went well beyond our allotted time.

On a good day, California's design community feels like a group of friends (on a bad day, not so much), sharing ideas and working together to maintain the spirit of a place famous for its open-mindedness and creativity. Here's to more good days ahead!

Sarah

–Sarah Lynch,
Executive Editor
sarah@chdmag.com

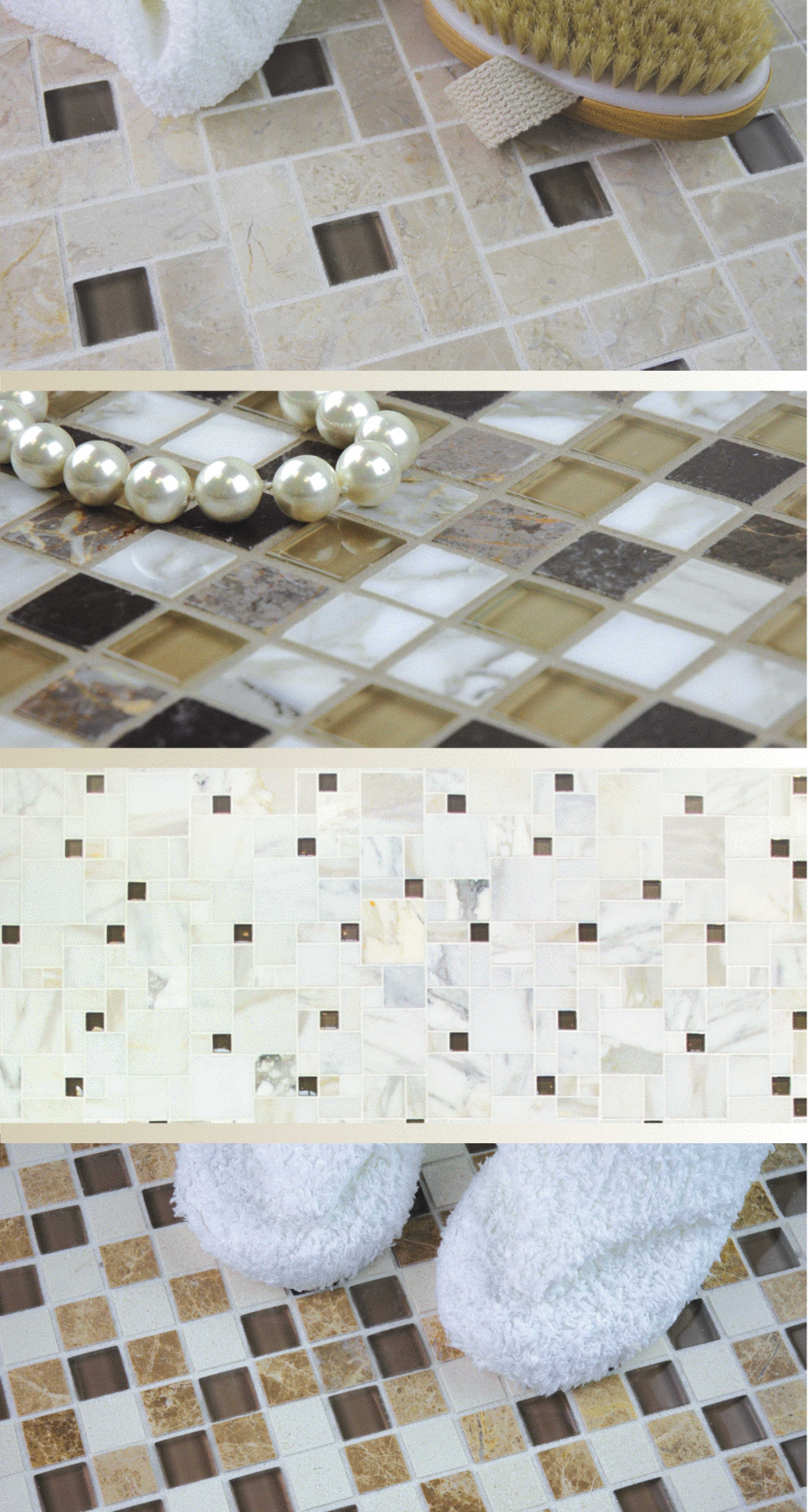
CONTRIBUTORS

Despite the hot desert temperatures at Trace Wilson's midcentury home in Anza-Borrego State Park ("Lost and Found," p. 88), photographer ANGIE SILVY says she never broke a sweat during the photo shoot. "Thanks to the glorious natural light and glass walls, I didn't need any extra equipment," says the native Australian, who specializes in photographing fashion, weddings and interiors. Based in San Francisco, Silvy has shot for *People*, *InStyle* and *Martha Stewart Living*.

Photographer JEN SISKA followed Nelson Bloncourt, former owner of the San Francisco home furnishings store Alabaster, inside his favorite Hayes Valley haunts for "Hayes Fever" (p. 71). Despite all the eye candy (and real candy) inside the neighborhood shops, Siska insists her favorite subject was Bloncourt himself. "He claimed he wasn't good in front of the camera, but the second the camera was on him, he knew how to work it!" says Siska, whose work has appeared in *Bust*, *Make* and *Travel + Leisure*.

Editorial assistant KAITLYN GEREMIA interviewed Jim Turner, CB2's director of architecture, to get the scoop on the opening of the company's first San Francisco store ("Plate Tectonics," p. 49). She soon found herself looking forward to the reveal of the space almost as much as the new fall product line. "When you talk to someone who is so passionate about what they are doing, you become invested in it as well," says Geremia, a recent transplant to San Francisco from Connecticut.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LINDSEY SHOOK; DREW ALTIZER; COURTESY OF JEN SISKA; KATHRYN ROACH



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PROMOTIONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS, EVENTS AND SPECIAL PROMOTIONS FROM **CALIFORNIA HOME + DESIGN** ADVERTISERS

Payton Stiewe of Sotheby's International Realty recently listed this historic property at 3690 21st Street.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR WEST COAST GREEN 2008

{September 25–27 in San Jose}

Network with eco-minded business professionals, hear from sustainability leaders and browse hundreds of green building products at West Coast Green 2008. One of the largest conferences on green innovations and building, the three-day event will take place September 25 through 27 at the San Jose Convention Center. *150 West San Carlos St., San Jose, 800-724-4880, westcoastgreen.com.*

ALORISA GLASSWORKS OFFERS DAZZLING SELECTION

{Design Studio Features Hundreds of Products}

Located in Oakland's Jack London Square, Alorisa Glassworks' showroom showcases hundreds of structural glass products for inside and outside the home. The beautifully designed design studio is for those who love the very best in architectural decorative glass. *330 Second St., Ste. 203, Oakland, 510-465-2746, alorisaglassworks.com.*

EXQUISITE SURFACES OPENS NEW SHOWROOM

{Now in Beverly Hills and San Francisco}

Exquisite Surfaces, which offers a wide selection of stone, terracotta and hardwood flooring, has just opened a 9,000-square-foot flagship store in Beverly Hills. It also recently completed a 3,500 square-foot remodel of its San Francisco showroom, featuring 34 new- and reclaimed-wood floors on display. *150 15th St., SF, 415-431-7300; 289 N. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-659-4580; exquisitesurfaces.com.*

BOCONCEPT SAN FRANCISCO HOSTS GRAND OPENING PARTY

{Customized, Affordable Design Furniture and Accessories}

BoConcept San Francisco welcomes you to experience the best in customized furniture design at its grand opening party on August 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening will feature an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, prizes and music! Get tips on modern design while checking out the gorgeous new 5,000-square-foot showroom. *101 Townsend St., SF, 415-371-0100, boconcept-ca.com; RSVP to info@boconcept-ca.com.*

CLINT STONE'S GREAT SHOWROOM SALE

{Receive 15 to 30 Percent Off Selected Items}

Through the month of August, save on stone fireplace mantels at Clint Stone in San Jose. Each month, Clint Stone offers a 15 to 30 percent discount off of selected natural stone products, including mosaic murals, mirrors and tabletops. *2233 Ringwood Ave., San Jose, 408-955-9090, clintstone.com.*

SIGN UP FOR THE GIANTS COMMUNITY FUND GOLF CLASSIC

{July 21 in San Francisco}

Tee off with the San Francisco Giants, alumni, executives and other sports celebs at the 18th Annual Giants Community Fund Golf Classic on Monday, July 21, at the Olympic Club. With proceeds to benefit the fund and its flagship program, Junior Giants, the event features golf from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by an exclusive reception, dinner and silent auction. *599 Skyline Blvd., SF, 877-574-4268, jrgiants.org.*

SAN JOSE HARDWOOD FLOORS GOES GREEN

{Eco-Friendly Products Fill the Showroom}

At San Jose Hardwood Floors, the showroom has been freshly stocked with a wide selection of sustaiinable flooring options, including cork and bamboo flooring. With more than 20 years of experience, San Jose Hardwood Floors works with only the best manufacturers including Wicander, NaturalCORK, Chatelain/Mullican and Bam Star. *1824 Stone Ave., San Jose, 408-264-3500, sanjosehardwoodfloors.com.*

SOTHEBY'S LISTS HISTORIC MANSION

{Iconic San Francisco Property for Sale}

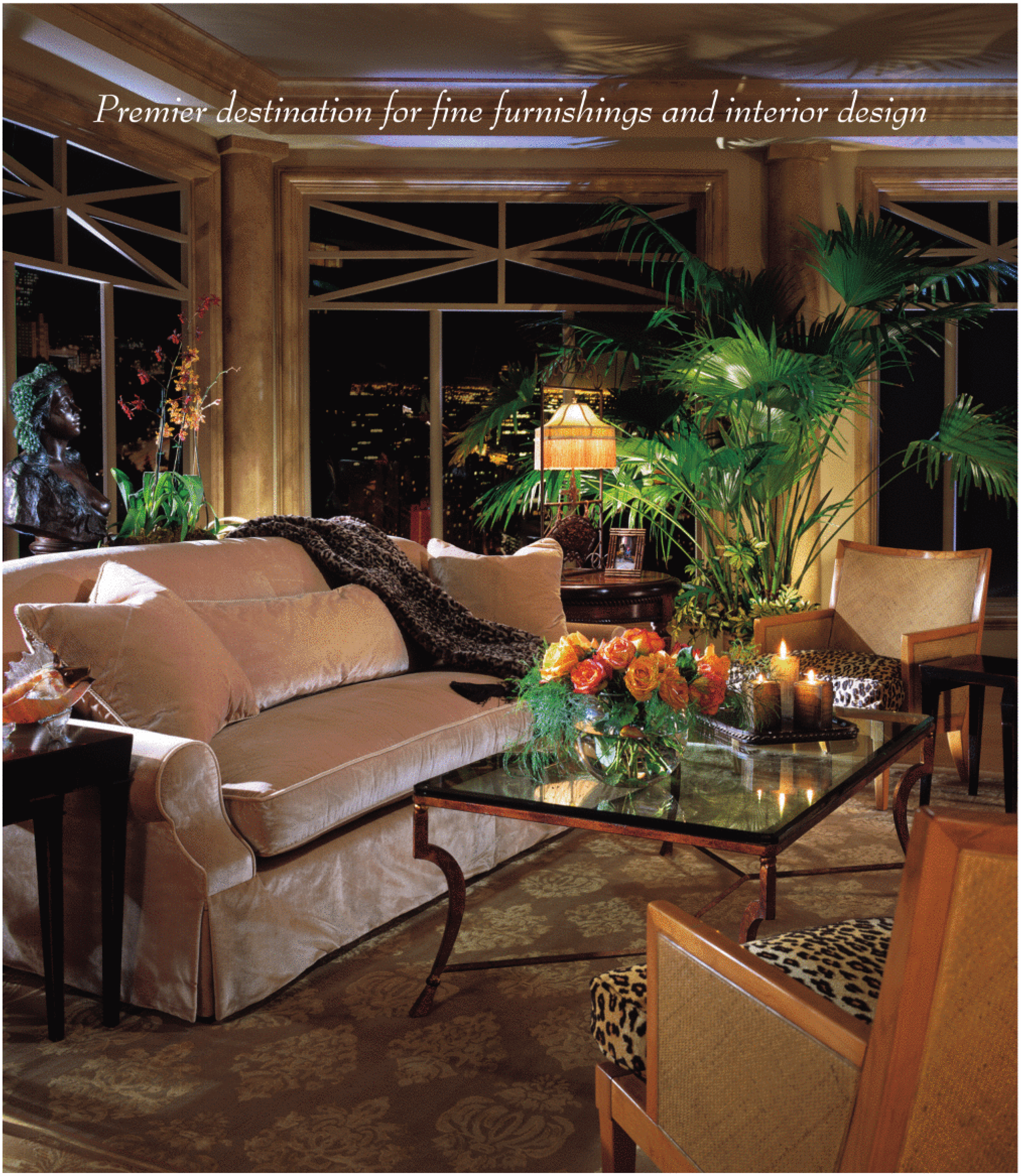
Located on 21st Street, the French chateau boasts sweeping views of the city and a notable pedigree. Listed by Payton Stiewe of Sotheby's International Realty, this sought-after property is the former home of Anita Page, a silent-film actress and mistress of San Francisco mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph. *For more information, call 415-401-9966.*

SID DICKENS LAUNCHES NEW DECORATIVE TILES

{Now Available at Worldware}

Sid Dickens, known for his decorative tile "memory blocks," recently added a new line—the 12 signs of the zodiac—to his 2008 collection. The complete collection is now available at Worldware, the exclusive retailer of Sid Dickens in San Francisco. *301 Fell St., SF, 415-487-9030, worldwaresf.com.*

PHOTO VICTOR LASZLO



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CINDY CAREY OF STARBURST CONSTRUCTION, GORDON HOLSCHER OF IMC

NARI GETS INVOLVED IN GREEN FAIR

On June 7 and 8, the San Jose Convention Center hosted **Greenfair Silicon Valley**—a two-day event showcasing environmentally friendly products and services for businesses and homes. In addition to playing host to more than 200 eco-minded exhibitors, the fair featured "how-to" seminars, keynote speakers and highlights such as the Great Green Market and the **National Association of the Remodeling Industry** (NARI)'s Green Showroom. Designed to educate consumers, the showroom featured companies including **Graniterock**, **Porcelanosa**, **University Electric Home Appliance Center** and **Daniel Mackey Construction, Inc.** NARI's core purpose is dedicated to advancing and promoting the remodeling industry's professionalism, products and vital public purpose.

KITCHEN TOUR TAKES THE STAGE WITH FIVE HOMES

On May 16, attendees toured five staged homes during the **28th Annual Hillsborough-San Mateo Kitchen Tour**. Showcasing everything from Asian contemporary to shingled Colonial style, the event featured homes staged by Bloomingdale's, appliances provided by **University Electric** and floral arrangements by **Emily Joubert**. Organized by the **Community Service League**, the event served to benefit the Mental Health Association and Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Center of San Mateo.

AN ELEGANT BUFFET WAS STAGED IN AN EUROPEAN COUNTRY HOME IN HILLSBOROUGH.

GARDEN PARTY SUPPORTS THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

On May 3, **Christopher Hoover** and **George Rosenfield** hosted a Sonoma garden party to promote the **Human Rights Campaign's 24th Annual Race for Equality Gala Dinner**. (The black-tie affair was scheduled for July 26 at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco; more information available at *sfbayarea.hrc.org/dinner*.) Major donors and corporate sponsors enjoyed *Sex in the City*–inspired cocktails provided by SKYY Vodka, accompanied by bites including Sonoma sausages, in the couple's sun-filled garden and patio.

MARK SHIELDS, TOM FLOYD

CHRIS FRENCH OF CHRIS FRENCH METAL FABRICATION, IAN READ OF MEDIUM PLENTY

ROBIN PETRAVIC OF HEATH CERAMICS, MICHAEL MCDONALD OF MCDONALD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

OAKLAND'S MARGARIDO HOUSE SHOWCASES GREEN DESIGN

On June 12, more than 150 guests got a preview of an ultra-green house in Oakland at 5950 Margarido Drive. The personal residence of Michael McDonald of **McDonald Construction & Development**, the home is the first in the Bay Area to seek a Platinum rating—the highest level possible—under the new LEED for Homes program. The event's sponsors included **Heath Ceramics**, **Style Bath & Kitchen** and **Concreteworks**, whose products are showcased throughout the home's stylish and sustainable interiors (details available at *margaridohouse.com*). Guests enjoyed the sunset from the home's many outdoor spaces, including a spacious deck with living roof and a front patio overlooking the city.

(NARI): MAAYAN BEN ARTZI; (HOME TOUR): MAAYAN BEN ARTZI; (MARGARIDO): SARAH LYNCH; (HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN): RENE MARTINEZ

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LIVING ON THE EDGE

LIVING GREEN GETS THE JUDGES' NOD AT GARDEN SHOW

At this year's **San Francisco Flower and Garden show**, top award winner was **Living Green**, an inspiring San Francisco showroom that offers design services. With its garden entry, "Living on the Edge," Living Green captured five gold medals. "Live Beautifully…Live Outdoors" was the theme of this year's show, which took place in March at the Cow Palace in Daly City. To create the garden, **Davis Dalbok** of Living Green teamed with landscape contractors Rock & Rose Landscapes and designer Tim O'Shea of Greenworks.

TOM HAID, OWNER OF TOM'S OUTDOOR FURNITURE OWNER, SITS AT THE ENTRANCE TO FILOLI.

TOM'S OUTDOOR FURNITURE GOES TO FILOLI

The 1917 Woodside estate Filoli, one of the finest country homes from the early 20th century, held the **2008 Filoli Flower Show**—and **Tom's Outdoor Furniture** was part of the display. This year's event, which took place May 8 to 11, featured former owners Mr. and Mrs. William Bower Bourne's original vision for the 16-acre formal garden and included historic photographs and an interpretive display of the Bourne era from 1917 to 1936. Tom's Outdoor Furniture provided a glider bench from its Redwood City-based showroom, offering an ideal spot to stop and smell the roses.

[LIVING GREEN]: DAVIS DALBOK; [TOM'S OUTDOOR FURNITURE]: SUSAN HAID

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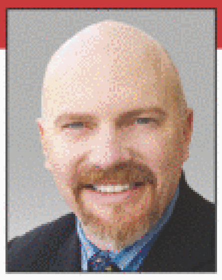

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FINDS

AUGUST 2008

WHAT'S HOT AND HAPPENING IN CALIFORNIA DESIGN

COURTESY OF CB2

PLATE TECTONICS

CB2, the youthful offshoot of Crate & Barrel, is making its West Coast debut in San Francisco's Union Square this summer. The new store—the fourth CB2 in the country—offers colorful and affordable home furnishings displayed against an all-white backdrop. To suit its new California home, CB2's director of architecture, Jim Turner, brought in layers of texture to the store. "We're emphasizing a raw and edgy feel with exposed brick and concrete," he says. Among the newest items on display: a cheeky line of Subliminal tableware *($4–5)*, which will surely shake things up at your next dinner party. *34 Ellis St., SF, cb2.com.*
—Kaitlyn Geremia

THE NEWEST PLACES TO SHOP, EAT AND STAY

BY **ERIN FEHER**

CITY OF ANGLOS

Bringing a touch of the West End to the West Coast, **The London West Hollywood** combines the talents of two Brits, designer David Collins and chef Gordon Ramsay. The 200-room hotel boasts Ramsay's eponymous restaurant, luxury baths by Collins and Waterworks and an English-inspired roof garden blooming with white roses. *1020 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, 866-282-4560, thelondonwesthollywood.com.*

GREAT PLAINS

Named after the prime cattle-grazing plains of Brazil, **Pampas** is Palo Alto's first *churrascaria*. Chef John Karbowski gives the traditional Brazilian steakhouse a Northern California sensibility by featuring locally sourced meats alongside seasonal organic produce. San Francisco designer Matthew Leverone created the furnishings, and artwork by Brazilian painter Sidnea D'Amico was commissioned for the space. *529 Alma St., Palo Alto, 650-327-1323, pampaspaloalto.com.*

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF THE LONDON WEST HOLLYWOOD; CHRIS SCHMAUCH

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Perch, a new boutique selling gifts and home accessories, opened in San Francisco's Glen Park neighborhood earlier this year. Proprietors Zoel Fages and Sue Puhlhorn focus on goods from local designers, including glassware from Oakland's Mediums to Masses, table runners and place mats from East Bay company Modern-Twist and baby outfits from Lali Clothing of San Francisco. *654 Chenery St., SF, 415-586-9000, perchsf.com.*

HOUSE OF SPIRITS

A revolving 1924 Mason & Hamlin grand piano and a curving Victorian staircase leading nowhere are just a few of the opulent, surreal details found at **Cafe Was**, the newest restaurant and lounge from Ivan Kane (of Deep and Forty Deuce). Designed by New York's RKIT Design, the Hollywood hideaway features a bistro-inspired menu including classic dishes such as *moules frites*, as well as an extensive selection of caviar and Champagne. *1521 N. Vine St., Hollywood, 323-466-5400, cafewas.com.*

CANNERY NOW

The first hotel to open in Monterey in 20 years, InterContinental's **The Clement Monterey** adds a luxury option to Cannery Row. Palo Alto's HKS Hill Glazier Studio created a waterfront structure with historical resonance, cladding it with the clapboard and corrugated-metal siding of old canneries. The rooms, designed by San Francisco's Alamosa Design Associates, feature soaking tubs, rain showers and fireplaces. *750 Cannery Row, Monterey, 831-375-4500, ihg.com.*

FROM TOP: STEFANIE MICHEJDA; COURTESY OF CAFE WAS; COURTESY OF INTERCONTINENTAL'S THE CLEMENT MONTEREY

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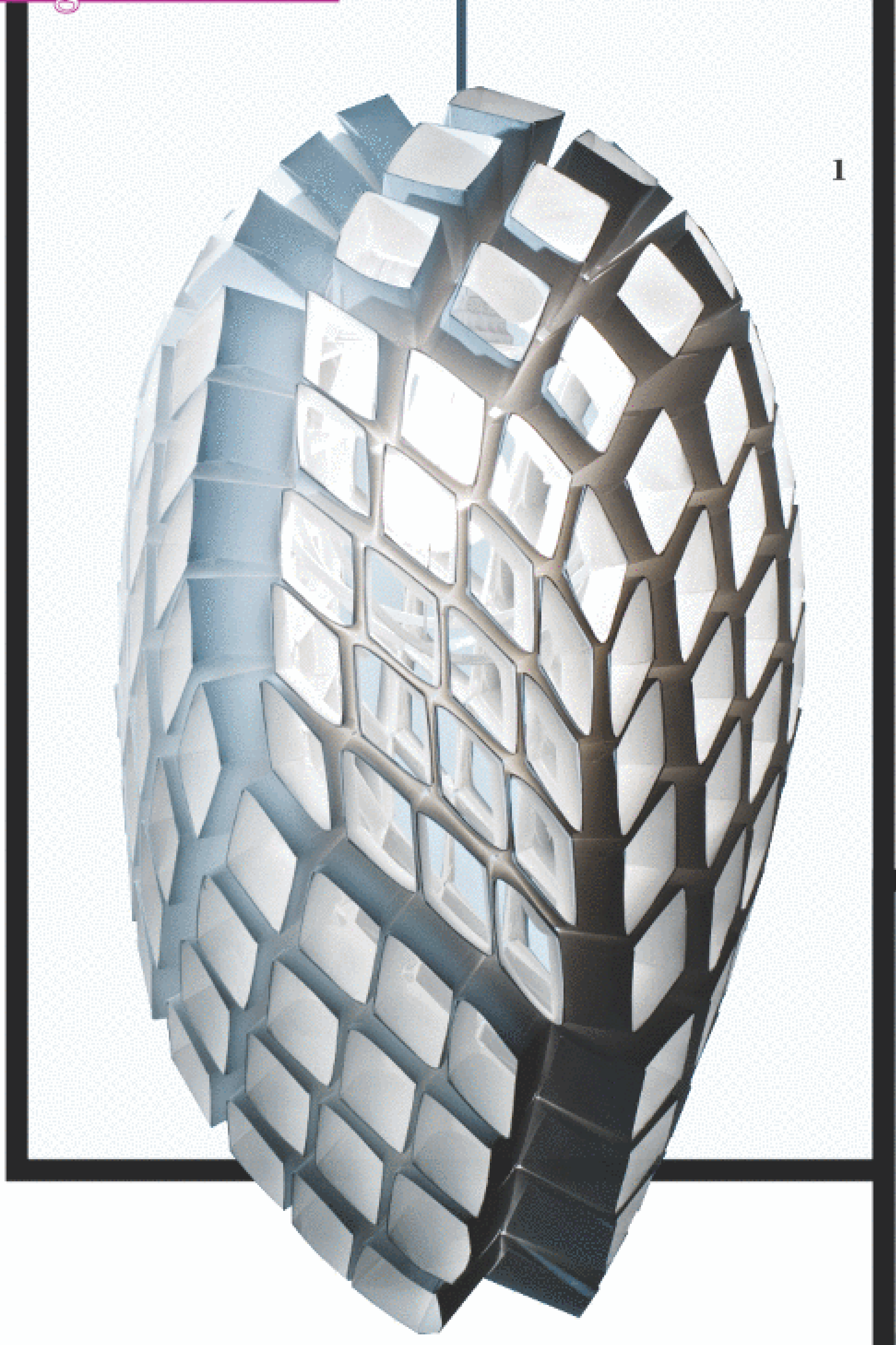

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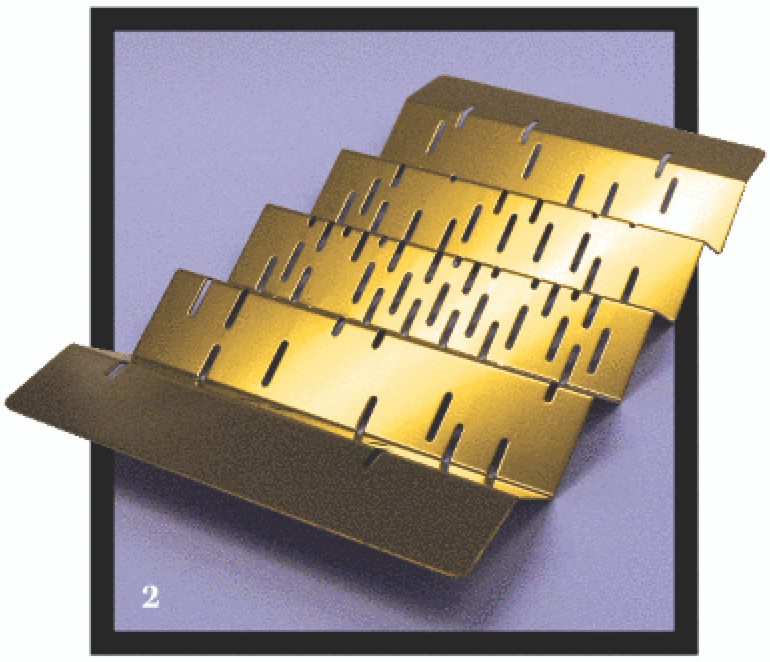

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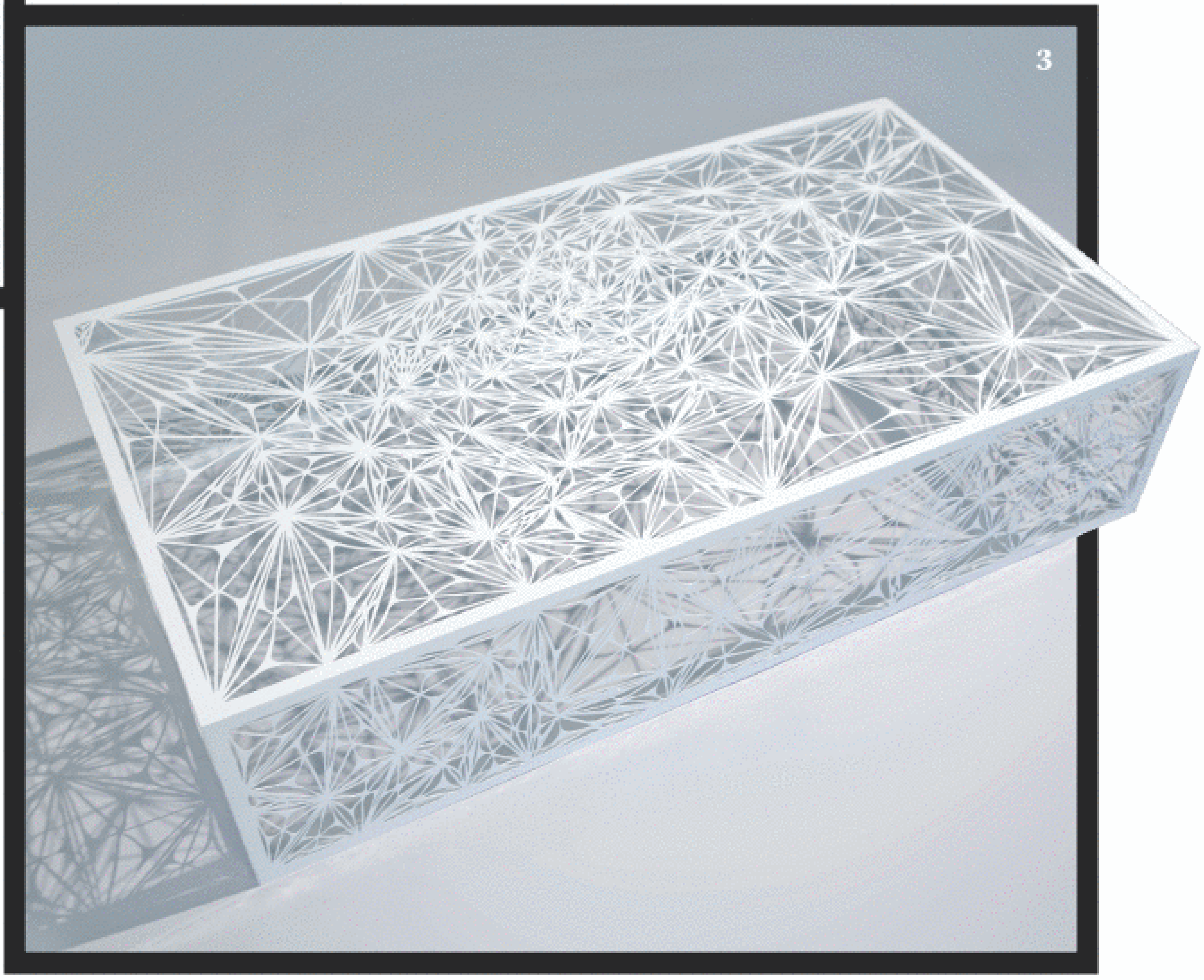

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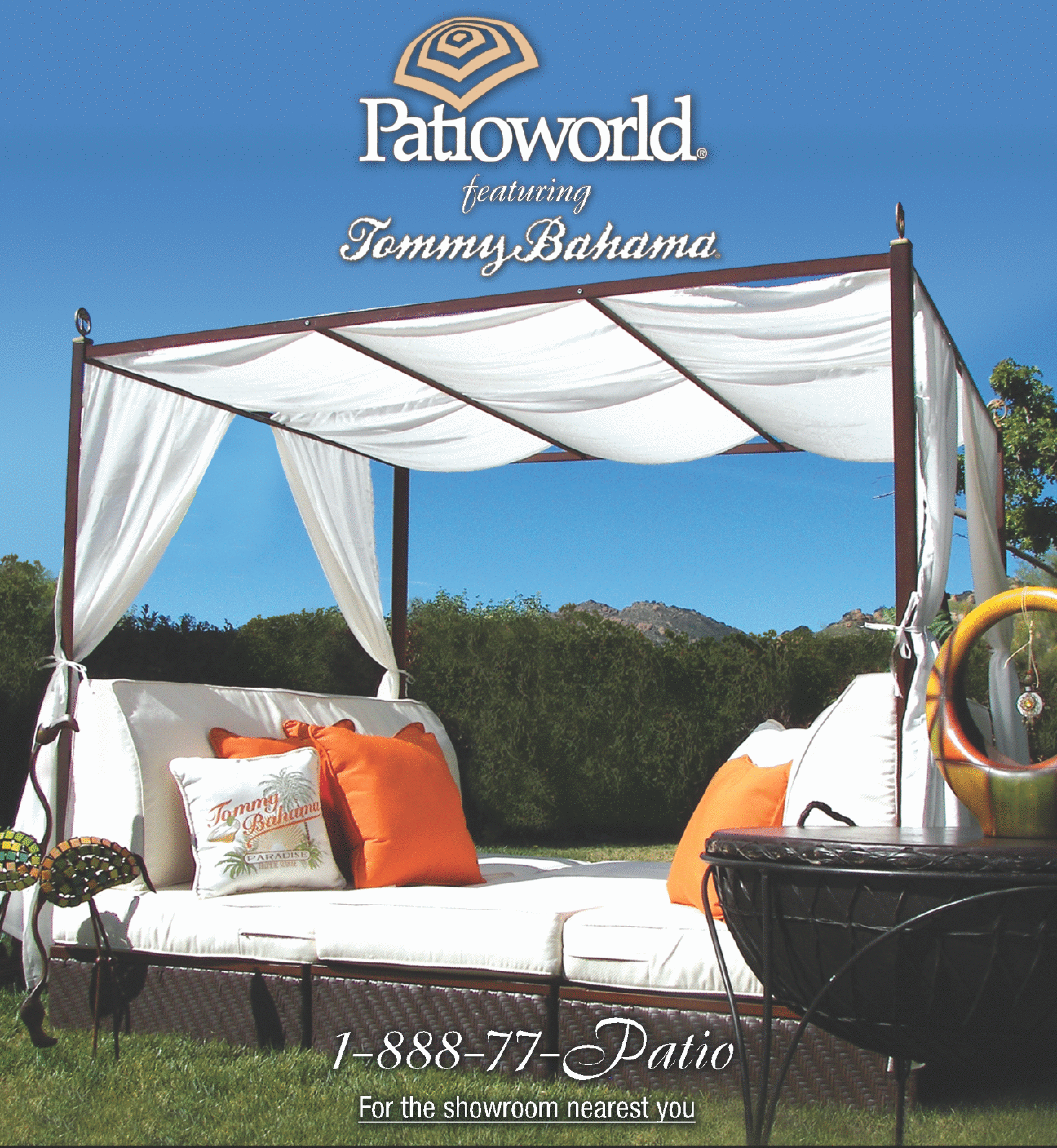
8 FRESH PICKS CALIFORNIA DESIGNS FROM ICFF

BY **MIKHAEL ROMAIN**

4

1. Heath Nash designed the malleable **Anemone lamp** for Los Angeles–based Artecnica; made of Tyvek, it can be hung or displayed on a flat surface *($290; showlifestyle.com)*. **2.** L.A. furniture company Pad Outdoors' **aluminum serving tray** has a perforated pattern *($65; aplusrstore.com)*. **3.** The **Nebula table** by L.A. company Arktura is made of laser-cut steel with a glass top *($3,800; arktura.com)*. **4.** Coated with a layer of pure silver, the reclaimed wood **Periodic table** is by One & Co for San Francisco–based Council *($42,000; councildesign.com)*.

COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS



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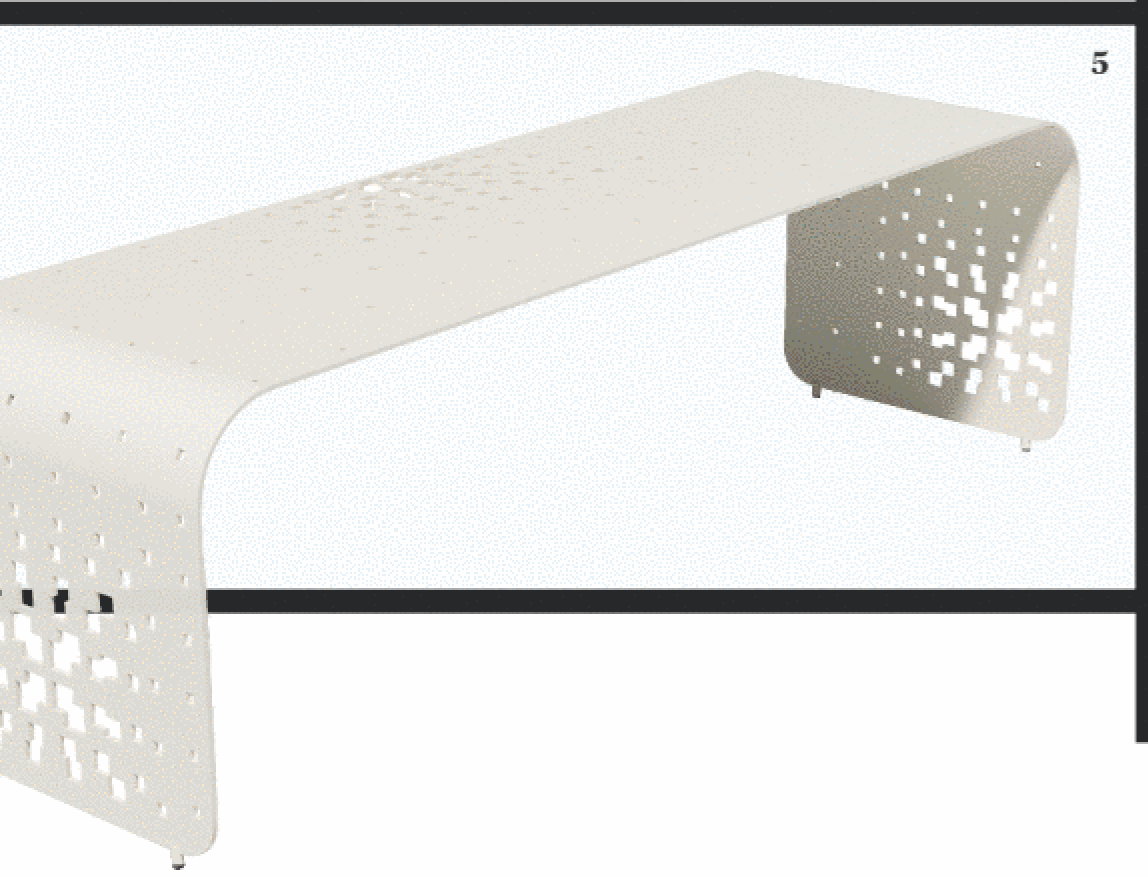
Woodland Hills ■ Thousand Oaks ■ Fountain Valley ■ Morgan Hill



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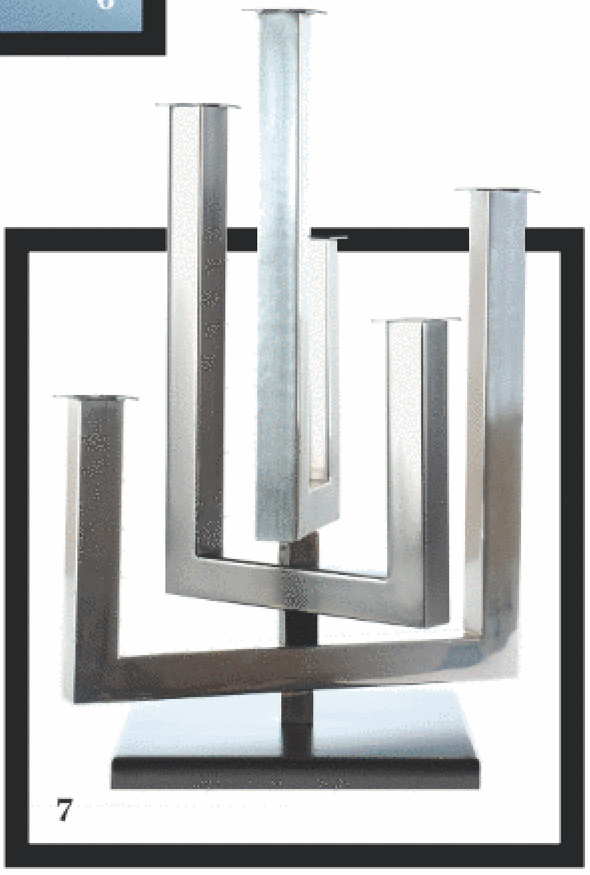

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5. Orange 22 invited eight designers to put their own stamp on its Botanist furniture series; the **Pixel bench** is by San Francisco industrial designer Yves Béhar *($1,700; propellermodern.com)*. **6.** The **Link LED task lamp**, designed by Peter Stathis for San Francisco lighting company Pablo, received the Editors Award for best lighting at ICFF *($350; pablodesigns.com)*. **7.** The **Zephyr candelabra** by Zia Priven has three arms that move independently *($2,160; ziapriven.com)*. **8.** Made for small spaces, San Diego designer Srdjan Simic's **Paket** is a set of four chairs and a table that folds into a box *($999, offi.com)*.

COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS

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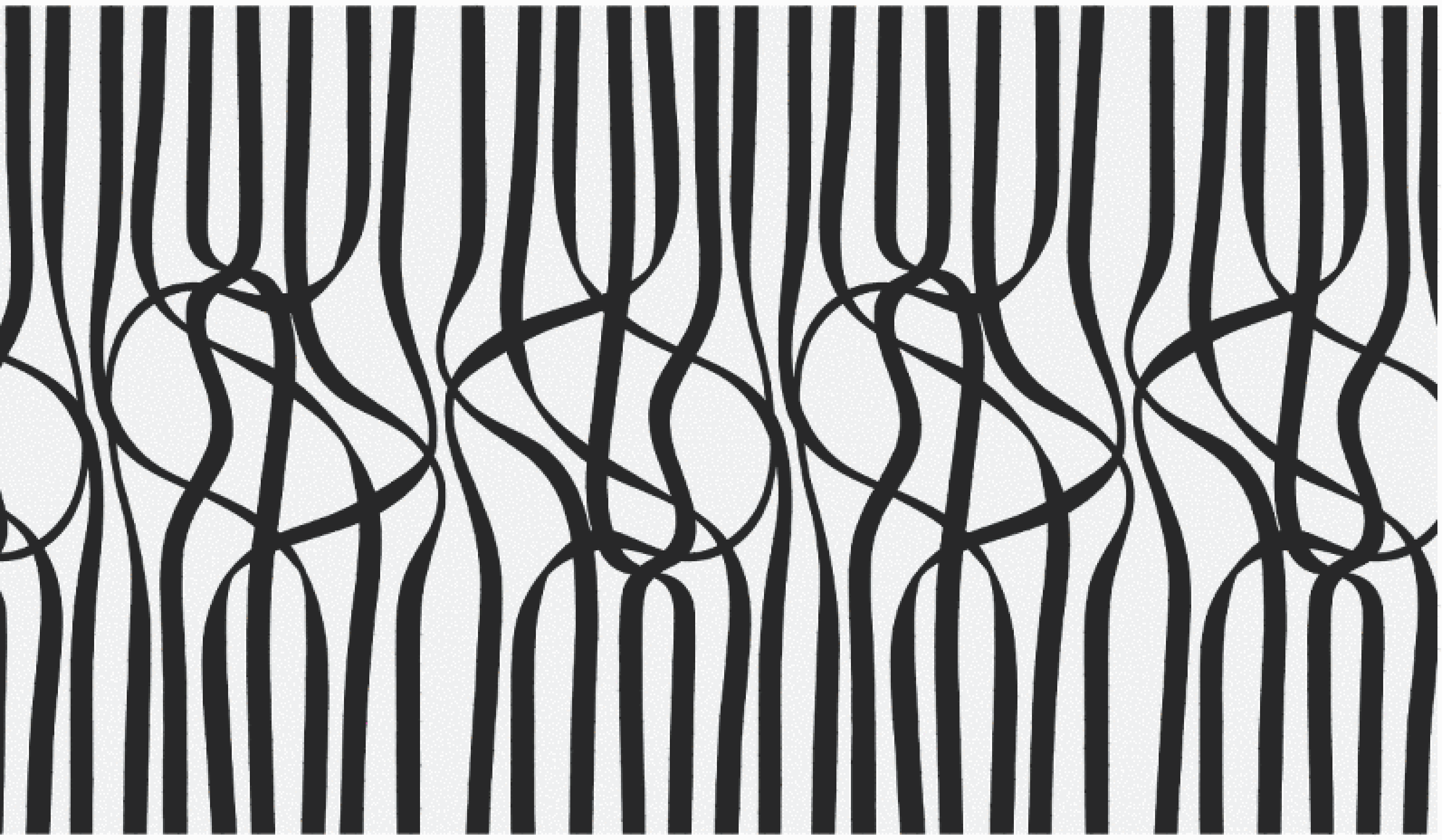

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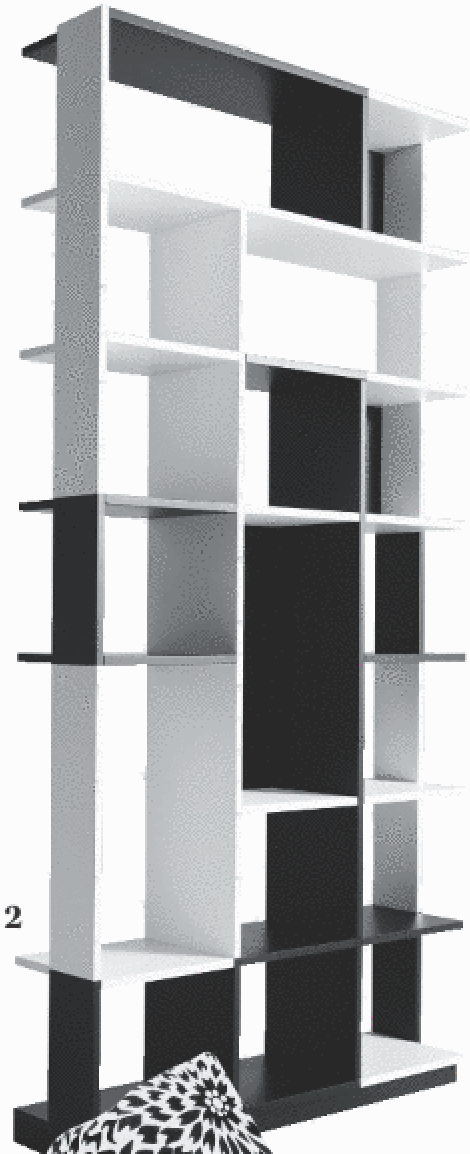

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A STUDY IN CONTRAST

HOME DESIGN GETS BACK TO BASICS WITH THE BEST IN BLACK-AND-WHITE ACCESSORIES.

BY **MIKHAEL ROMAIN**

5

4

1. Marimekko's latest line of textiles includes the ribbon-inspired **Pelimanni fabric.** **2.** Mario Bellini designed the **Sudoku bookshelf** for Italian company Horm. **3.** The **Dalia pouf** is part of Missoni Home's spring collection. **4.** Danish design company Ferm Living brings the outside in with its **Little Leaves wallpaper**. **5.** Textile designer Judy Ross pairs her hand-embroidered fabrics with the **Alvar Aalto Stool E60** in celebration of the iconic seat's 75th anniversary. *See resource guide, p. 122.*

COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS

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herbst pavilion, fort mason center

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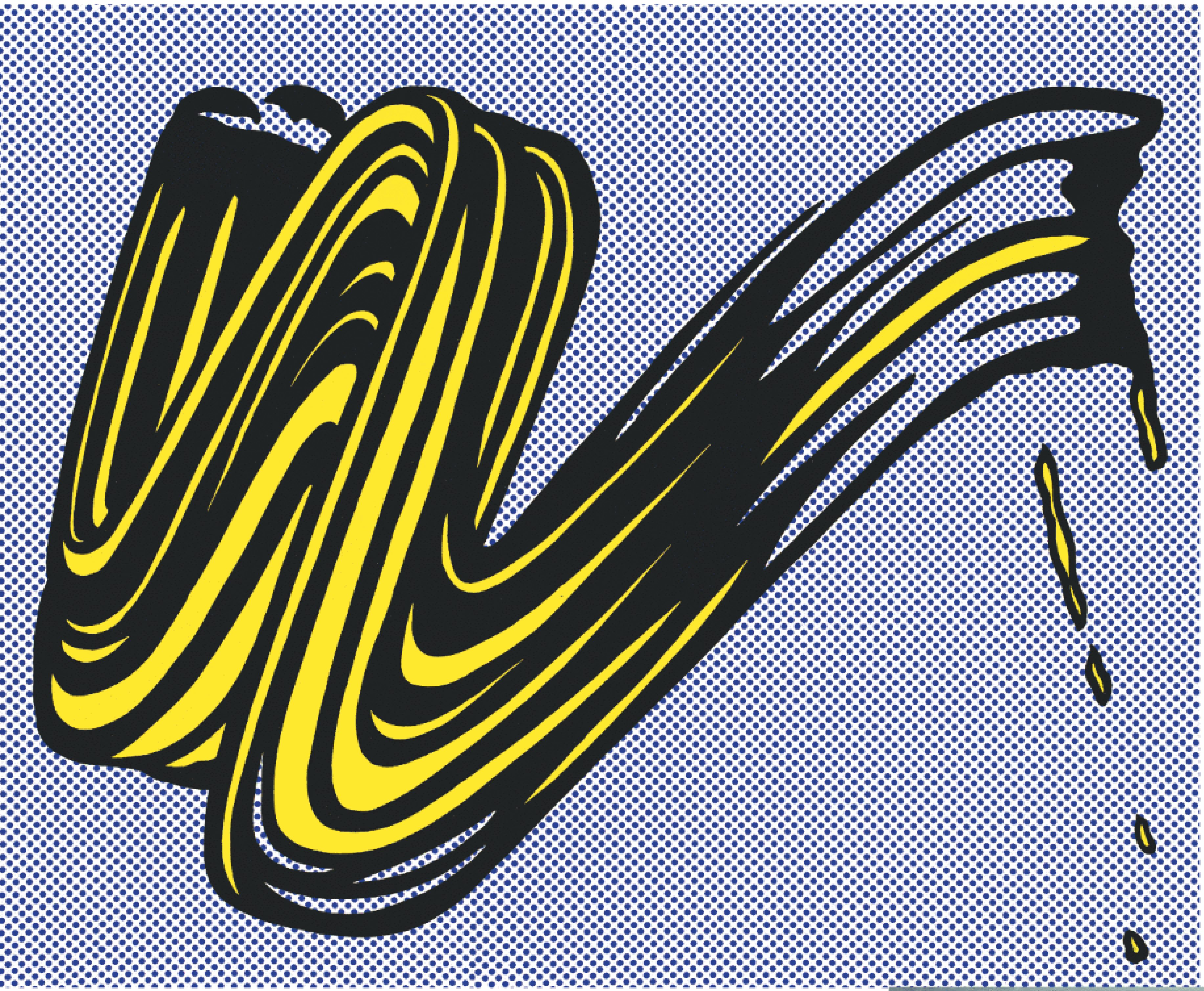

POP STARS

Starting August 16, Sacramento's **Crocker Art Museum** explores the Pop Art movement with "American Pop." The show's centerpiece is Warhol's 10-portrait "Athletes" series, but it also includes works by Wayne Thiebaud and Roy Lichtenstein, whose 1965 lithograph *Yellow Brushstroke #1* (left) reveals the vitality of the era. *Aug. 16–Nov. 2; 216 O St., Sacramento, 916-808-7000, crockerartmuseum.org.*

THE BEST IN ART, AUCTIONS AND GALLERY OPENINGS

BY ERIN FEHER

ROOM FOR THOUGHT

The quest for the iconic image in architecture and design inspired Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee to curate a show at **Christopher Grimes Gallery** in Santa Monica. For "No Room," the two Los Angeles architects juxtaposed classic furniture and photographs of landmark architecture with artwork inspired by the designs, such as Anton Henning's 2004 painting *Blumenstilleben No. 171* (above). *July 11–Aug. 30; 916 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, 310-587-3373, cgrimes.com.*

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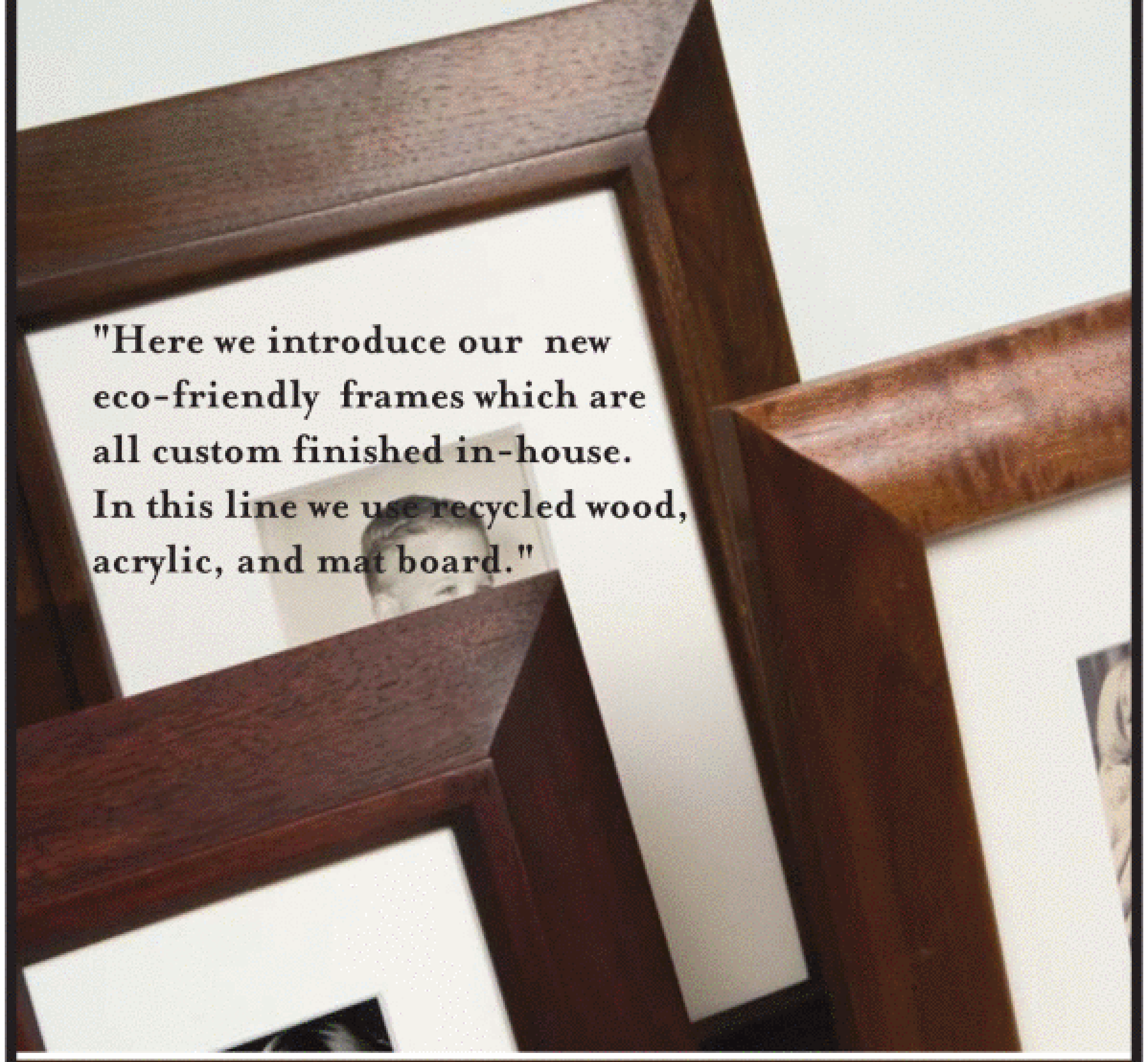

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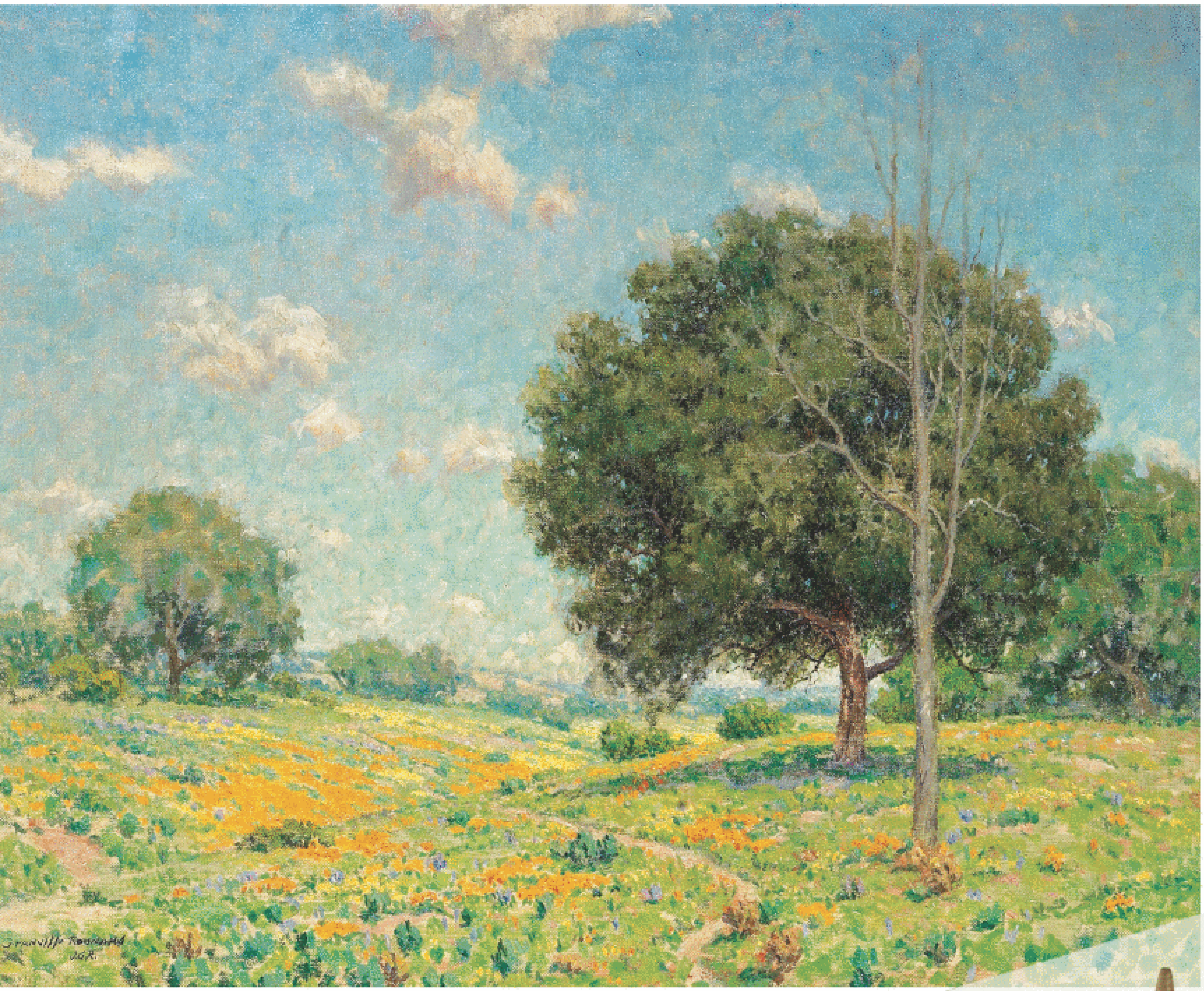
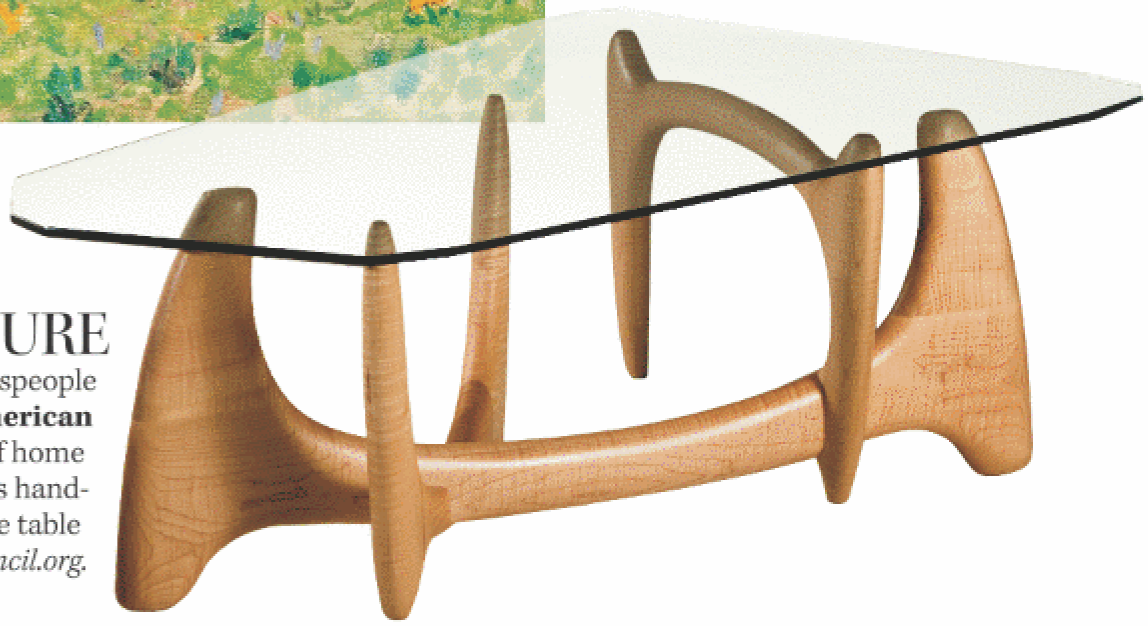


HOW THE WEST WAS WON

On August 5, dozens of artworks depicting the West will head home with the highest bidders when **Bonhams & Butterfields** holds its "California and American Paintings and Sculpture" auction. The selection of landscapes by esteemed American artists includes Granville S. Redmond's *A Path Through the Poppies* (left), which is estimated to fetch $150,000. *220 San Bruno Ave., SF, 415-861-7500, bonhams.com/us.*



CRAFT CULTURE

In mid-August, more than 250 of the nation's leading craftspeople will arrive at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center for the **American Craft Show**. The two-day event will showcase a wide range of home furnishings; Indiana-based furniture maker Nathan Hunter's hand-carved pieces include the Noguchi-inspired Trapezoid coffee table (right). *Aug 15–17; Fort Mason Center, SF, 800-836-3470, craftcouncil.org.*

MENDING FENCES

Painter Michael Shankman's wide-angle landscapes focus on areas in transition, such as the fenced-off desert of the Mexican-American border represented in the 2008 painting *Nogales* (right). This month, San Francisco's **Hang Art Gallery** presents "Better Days Ahead," a solo exhibition featuring the artist's most recent works. *Aug. 1–31; 556 Sutter St., SF, 415-434-4264, hangart.com.*

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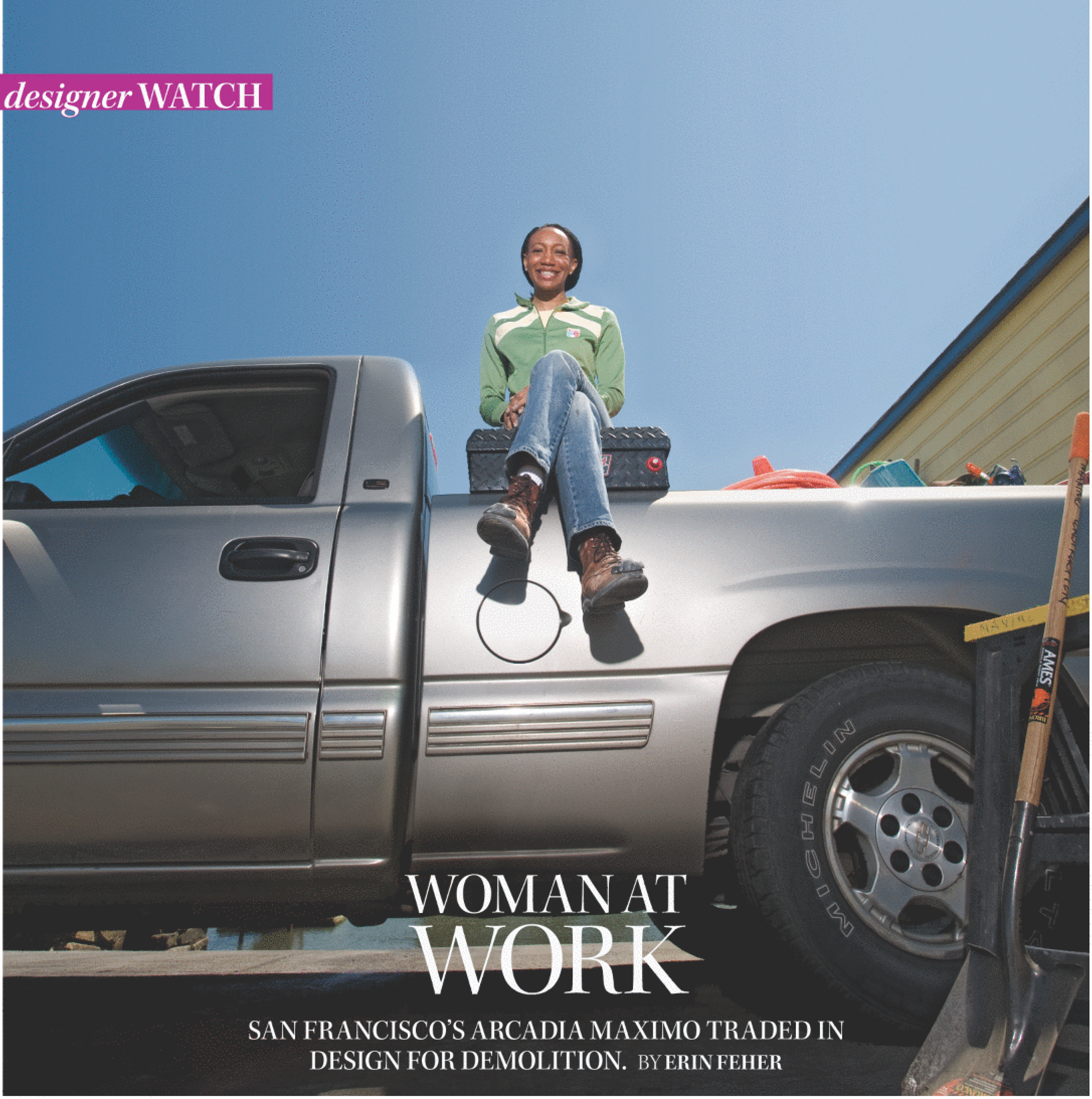


WOMAN AT WORK

SAN FRANCISCO'S ARCADIA MAXIMO TRADED IN DESIGN FOR DEMOLITION. BY ERIN FEHER

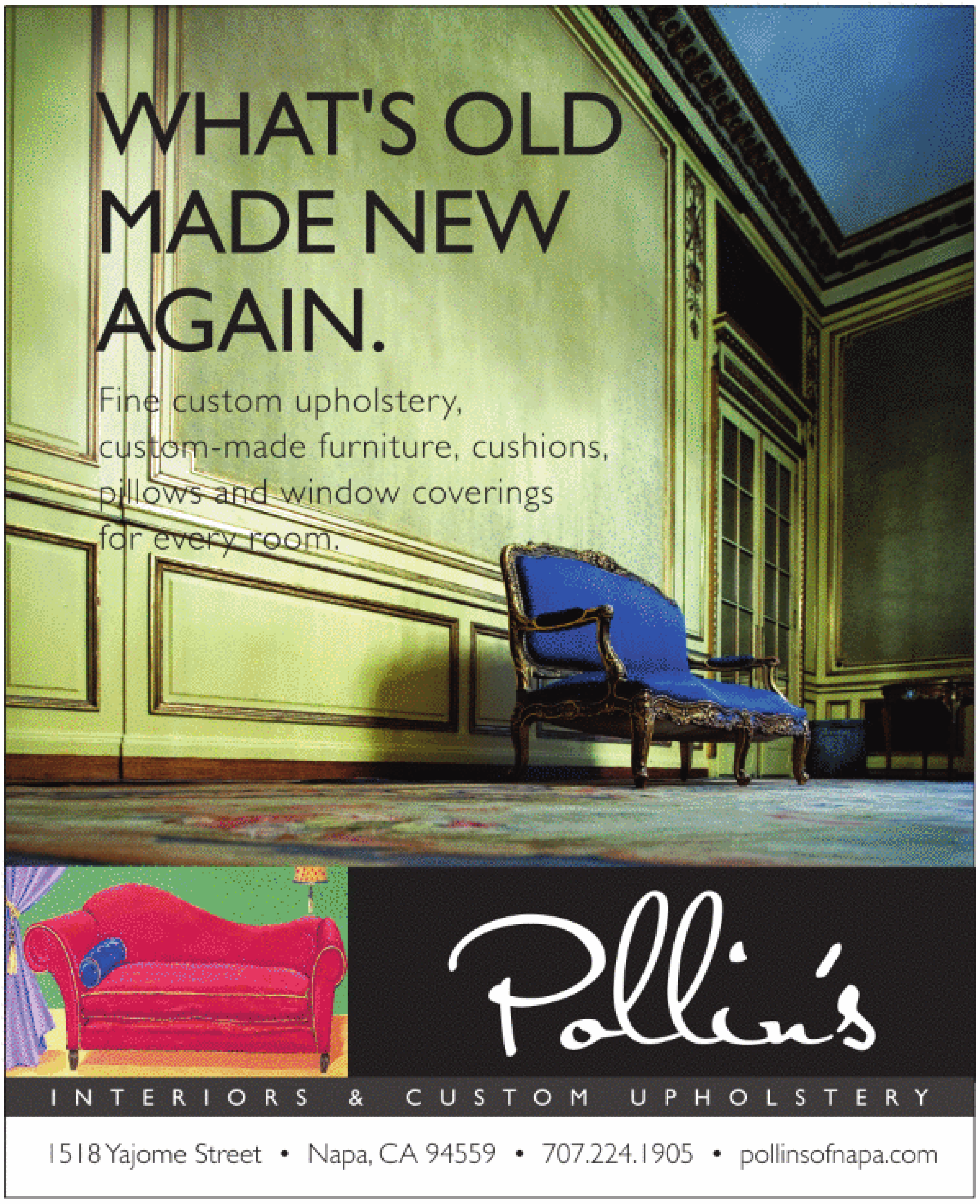
Sporting a tool belt and pearl earrings, Arcadia Maximo doesn't look like your average contractor. But this fact didn't fully register with her until 1996, while she was working on the renovation of San Francisco's historic California State government building. "There were at least 500 of us on the site, and I realized I was the only woman there," recalls the owner of Maximo Construction.

In the early '90s, Maximo was designing retail displays. While she enjoyed dreaming up the elaborate sets, she was amazed by the coworker who turned her ideas into reality—often with nothing more than raw wood and a power drill. "I was so impressed by that," says Maximo. "I considered myself a very creative person with all these great ideas, but I couldn't execute them myself." Resolving to familiarize herself with a toolbox, she signed up for the four-year apprenticeship program offered by the Local 22 San Francisco carpenter's union. While she initially saw the training as a way to beef up her design credentials, she quickly discovered that she loved doing construction.

The now 37-year-old laid her career's foundation working for several large construction companies, including Nibbi Brothers. In 2000, her foreman asked if she was interested in heading up one of his jobs, and Maximo Construction was born. An early adopter of green building techniques, she specializes in bathroom and kitchen remodels and isn't afraid to flex her design muscle, making her a highly sought-after resource. "I used to have my brother's voice on my answering machine, because I thought that a woman's voice might deter clients," she says. "But people seek me out for my talents and my professionalism—and the referrals keep coming." ■

> "This job is the perfect fit for me," says Arcadia Maximo. "I love the early mornings, and I don't have to take my work home with me—it's not like I can bring the bathroom remodel back to my place."

JENNIFER HALE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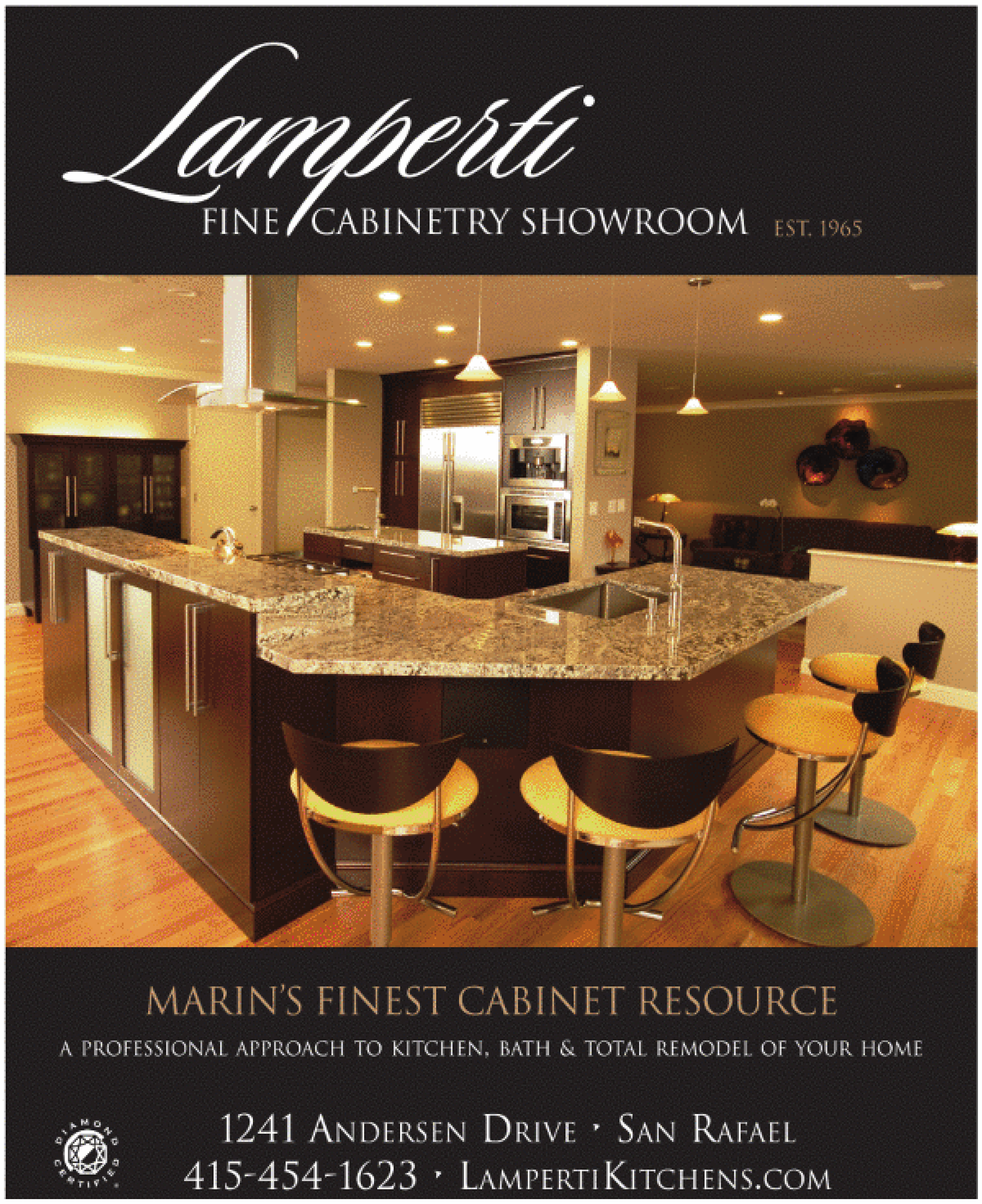
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THE JOY OF PAINTING

AN EXPERT IN OLD-WORLD FINISHES AND DECORATIVE PAINTING, THERE'S NO LOOK THAT SHIRLEY ROBINSON CAN'T PULL OFF.

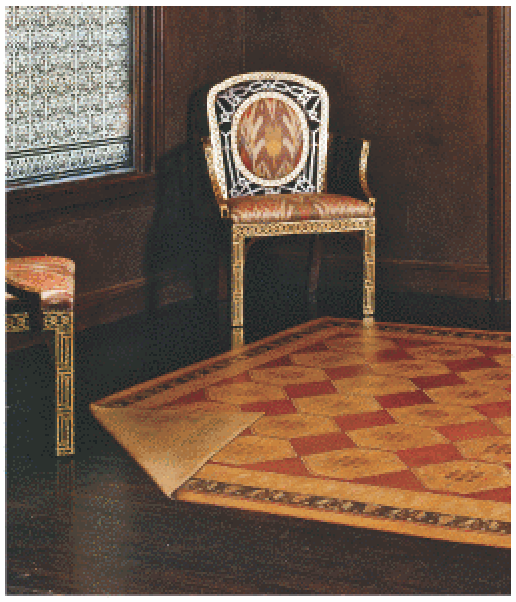
BY **SARAH LYNCH**

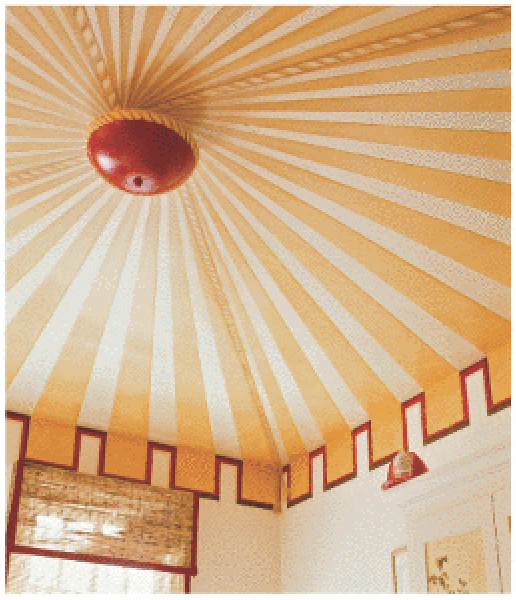
In Shirley Robinson's San Francisco studio on South Van Ness, the sheer number of samples reveals the decorative-finish expert's range of offerings. There are squares of sheetrock that appear to be polished wood, others that look like rough-hewn stone and more finished in smooth Venetian plaster (a technique she learned from master artisans in Italy). Panels of glass etched with geometric patterns and hand-painted wallpaper samples lean against shelves filled with paint pots, brushes, trowels and stencils. It's like an art student's dream-come-true.

Robinson, who has been in the decorative painting business for 16 years, comes across as just that: She talks about choosing colors and creating textures with as much enthusiasm as someone who is just starting out. "I love creating custom colors," says Robinson. "When I look at someone's eyes, I've already started formulating what colors I'd mix to make that shade—a little white, a touch of blue, some Venetian red. That's just how my brain works."

With a handful of artists helping her, Robinson's commissions range from a whole-house Venetian plaster job to custom hand-painted wallpaper with a chinoiserie bird motif. But she is best known for her inventive trompe l'oeil work in show houses throughout the Bay Area. At this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase, for example, her cloak room was framed in faux bois so realistic that it fooled the eye from an inch away. The space and adjacent powder room appeared to have a carved-wood ceiling, mosaic-tiled floor and intricate rug—all of it painted freehand. "I loved doing such an elaborate showcase, because people really responded to the rooms and how everything's done in paint—they flipped out when they realized that they couldn't kick the rug corner over," she says. "It's nice to come back to the old-fashioned way of how people used to decorate their houses."

Shirley Robinson's imaginative creations include the cloak room in this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase, featuring etched-glass windows and hand-painted finishes decorating the floor (below left) and ceiling (below). A faux-finished ceiling (middle) in a child's room reveals her more whimsical side.





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NARI

In his store on La Brea, Andy Hackman draws attention to the curvaceous designs of the past: A restored 1946 lounger (below) and a reissue of a 1950s wing chair (below left) are among the offerings at California Living.

POOLSIDE MENTALITY

ANDY HACKMAN PRESENTS A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE OUTDOOR FURNITURE OF DECADES PAST.

BY **LYDIA LEE**

After opening California Living—one of the first stores in the Los Angeles area devoted to midcentury modern outdoor furniture—more than a decade ago, Andy Hackman has tuned his eye to the notable designs of this genre. Today, visitors can browse several lines that he has reissued, along with a well-edited selection of restored furniture. "The older pieces have an organic quality that is missing in the new designs, which feel overly architectural to me," says Hackman.

In the early 1990s, he was a music-business executive who enjoyed collecting industrial-design objects such as toasters and electric fans. Gravitating toward "the obscure and the peripheral," Hackman started to come across examples of outdoor furniture produced during the area's post–World War II manufacturing boom. He learned how to apply a powder-coated finish, and in 1997, launched California Living to feature his revived finds. A couple of years later, Kelly Wearstler called when she needed 100 pieces of poolside seating and tables for the Avalon Hotel, prompting Hackman to go beyond restoration. He contacted the relatives of design duo Van Keppel-Green, whose furniture graced the exteriors of most of the Case Study houses, and worked with them to reissue the classic designs. More recently, he's supplied the outdoor furniture for the Hollywood Roosevelt and the Thompson Beverly Hills.

"Everything else has been reproduced and knocked off, but these designs are still really unique," says Hackman. "It's all about celebrating the innovative work of these unsung designers and manufacturers." ■

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HAYES FEVER

FORMER SHOP OWNER NELSON BLONCOURT TAKES *CH+D* INSIDE SOME OF HIS FAVORITE STORES IN SAN FRANCISCO'S HAYES VALLEY.

BY **MIKHAEL ROMAIN** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JEN SISKA**

In Hayes Valley, everybody knows Nelson Bloncourt. But these days, when Bloncourt walks down the main drag, his former neighbors greet him with a note of sadness. It's a sentiment shared by many San Francisco shoppers. For 10 years, Bloncourt was the proprietor of Alabaster, an elegant corner store filled with cream-colored home accessories including Venetian glass chandeliers, Fortuny textiles, a collection of alabaster lamps and one very special counterpoint—Fanny, the black-spotted French bulldog.

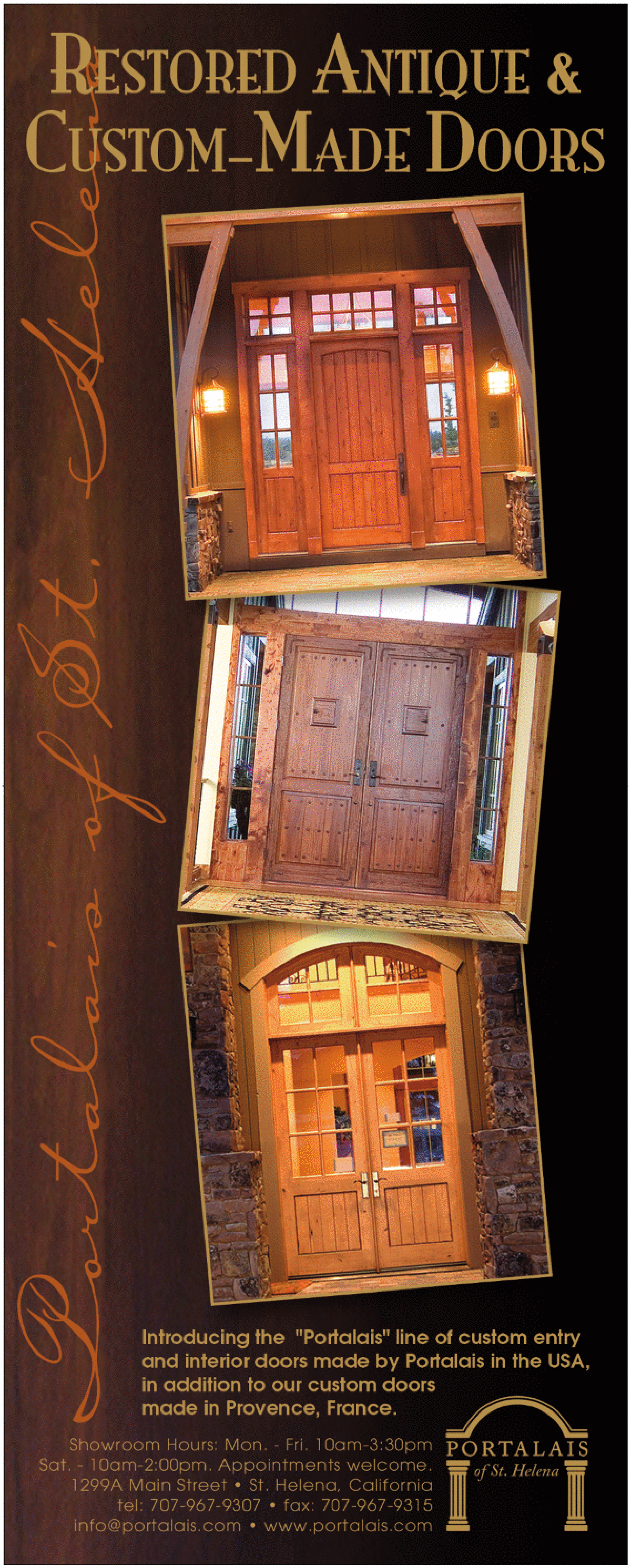
As Bloncourt's shop became more popular, he took on interior design jobs for some of his patrons. Seven months ago, he closed the shop to explore other avenues in the design world, including creative consulting for Gump's. But old habits die hard: the part-time interior designer often finds himself returning to his old stomping grounds. "This neighborhood has an abundance of great, unique items from around the world," says Bloncourt.

1. The Painter's Place is Bloncourt's choice for framing. "It makes sense to use a skilled framer when you are dealing with something as precious as art, and they know how to treat fine art here," says Bloncourt, who believes a frame should be simple and clean to allow the artwork to stand out. *371 Hayes St., SF, 415-431-9827, thepaintersplace.com.*

2. "Marrakech is inspiring the hottest designers right now," says Bloncourt, as he peruses the handcrafted mosaic tables, ornate tea glasses, vibrant leather poufs and other Moroccan imports at **Tazi Designs**. He especially loves the light fixtures: "At Tazi, they re-create traditional things in such a modern way." *333 Linden St., SF, 415-503-0013, tazidesigns.com.*

lunch time

At **Bar Jules**, the chalkboard menu changes daily according to what's fresh at the farmers market. Bloncourt goes for the grilled asparagus with hard-boiled eggs and a niçoise salad followed by roasted quail. "I've never had a bad meal here. Everything is done expertly, yet this place is so cool and casual," he says. *609 Hayes St., SF, 415-621-5482, barjules.com.*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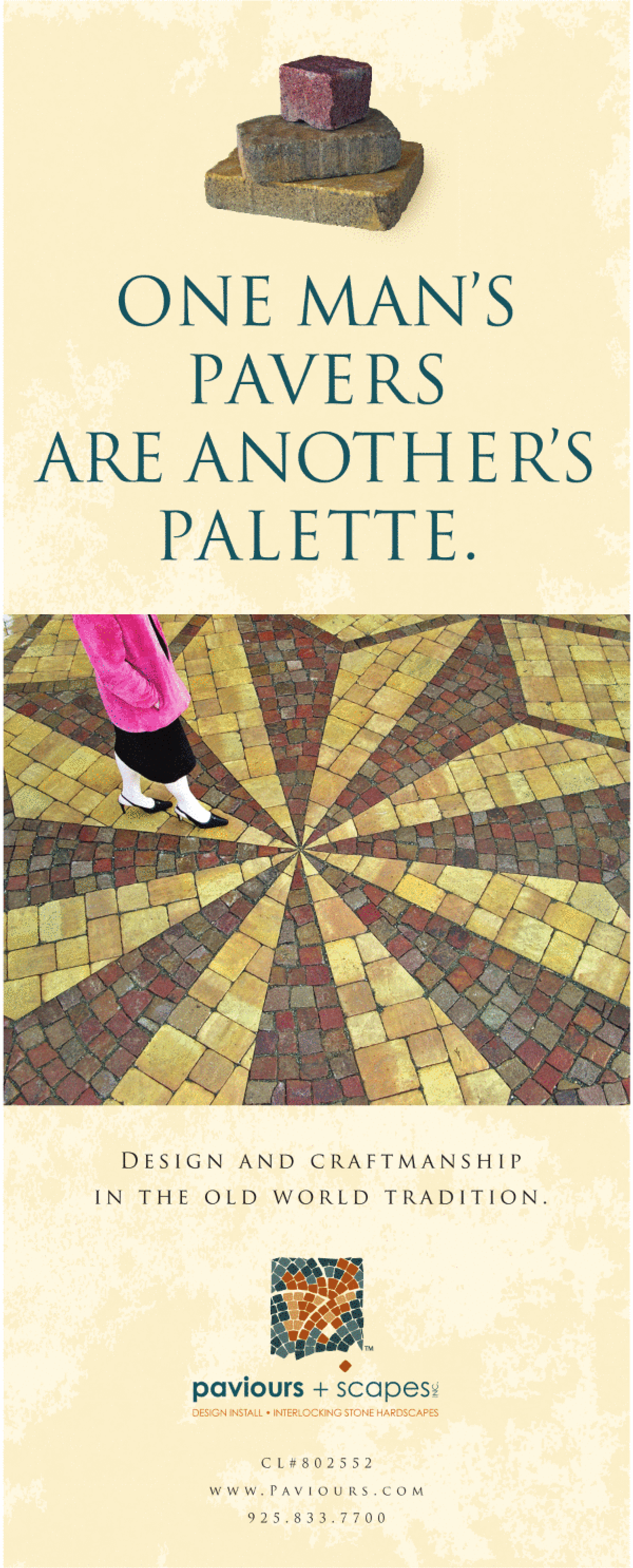
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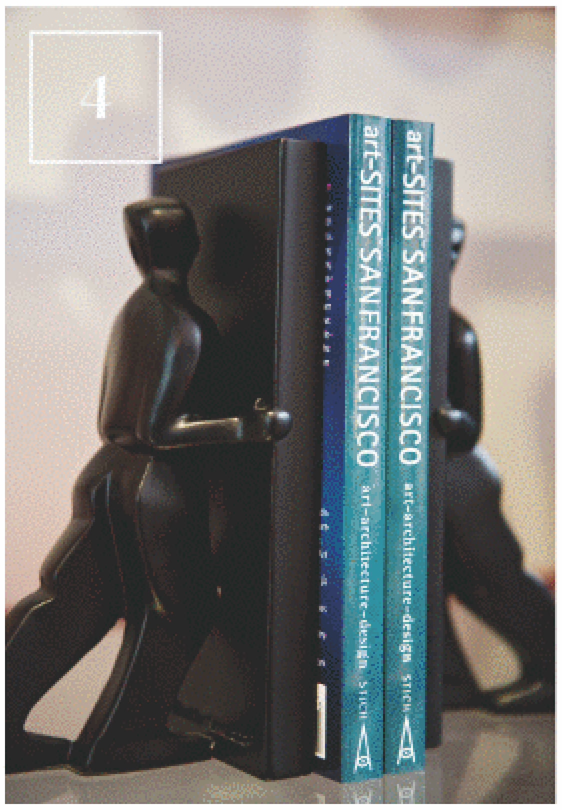

4. "These days, you can find a lot of stores that carry midcentury designers, but this shop weeds through the imposters," says Bloncourt of **Propeller**. "I can always find something unique and unexpected here." The modern furnishings store carries Chris Collicott bookends (left) as well as sofas from Moooi and accessories by Tobias Wong. *555 Hayes St., SF, 415-701-7767, propellermodern.com.*

5. At **Plantation**, which specializes in contemporary American furniture and Asian and European accessories, Bloncourt looks at a glass octopus with the store's co-owner, Brett Rogers. "I think of myself as more of an editor than an interior designer. Accessorizing is my thing," says Bloncourt, who describes his personal style as "very laid-back, with a lot of surprising elements." *336 Hayes St., SF, 415-565-0888, plantationusa.com.*

3. One of the stores that put Hayes Valley on the design-lover's map when it opened in 1990, **Zonal** carries a mix of American country and contemporary furniture as well as works by local artists, including surrealist painter Carol Aust. "There is something very dreamy about her work," says Bloncourt. "She packs a lot of emotion into it." *568 Hayes St., SF, 415-255-9307, zonalhome.com.*

sweet sense

"A great way to get to know a city is to visit the local farmers market and a candy shop," says Bloncourt. **Miette Confiserie**, a spin-off of the stylish Ferry Plaza bakery, sells cakes, candy and specialty chocolates. "I love the jelly beans," he says. "I buy them in three fruit flavors and mix them all together." *449 Octavia Blvd., SF, 415-626-6221, miettecakes.com.*

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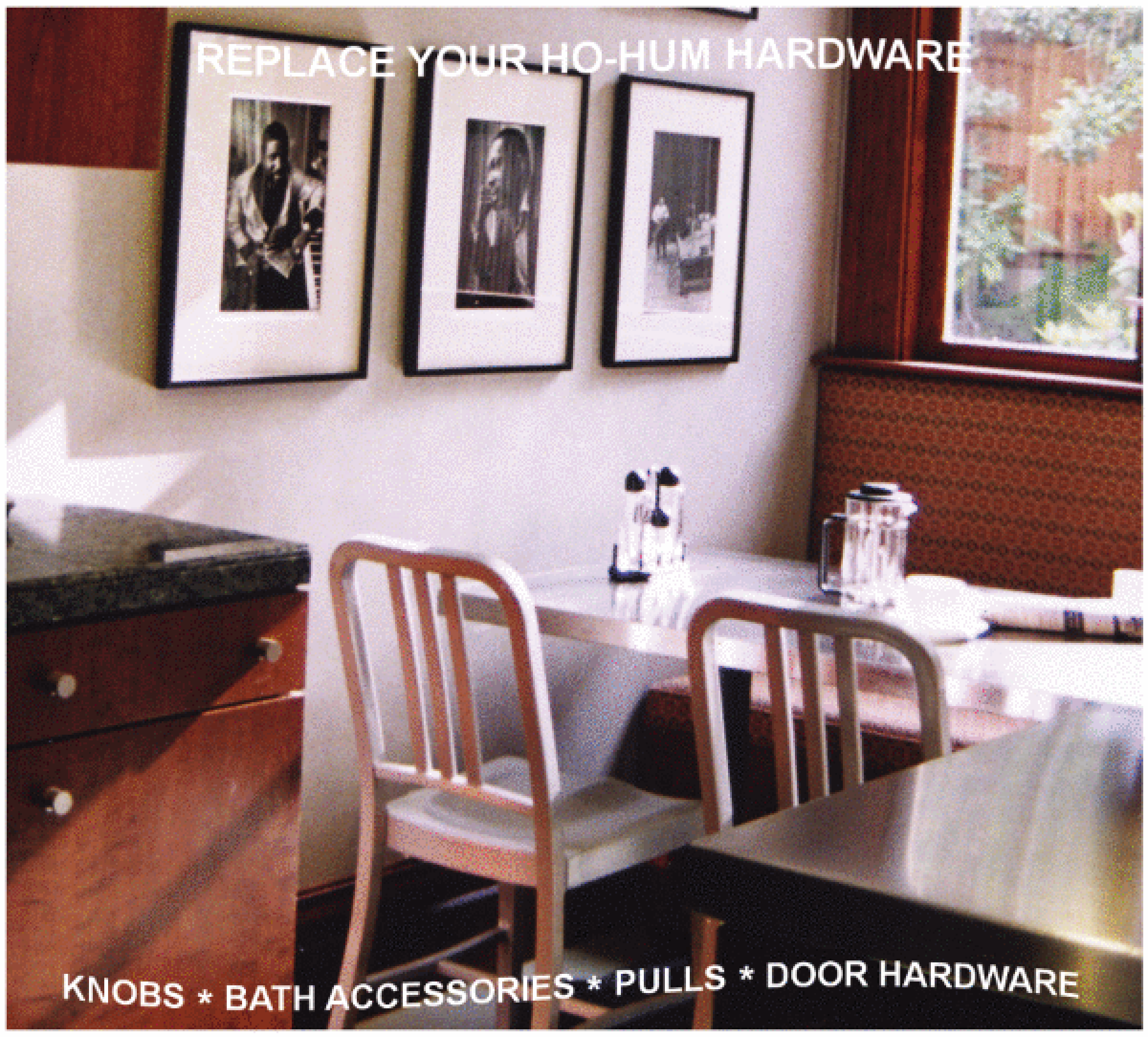

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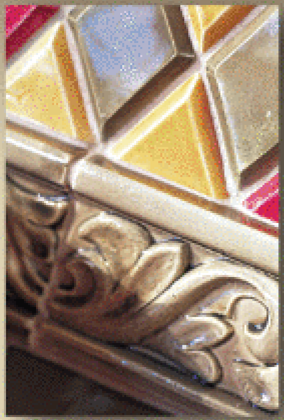

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The buzz surrounding San Francisco's new California Academy of Sciences, designed by this year's AIA Gold Medal recipient, Renzo Piano, can be heard throughout the country. While in town last May, New York photographer Joshua McHugh got a sneak peek, taking advantage of an all-access pass to shoot the building during the final phases of construction. McHugh captured the curves of the glass ceiling and the living roof, which was recently planted with nine native species including California poppies and wild strawberries, against the backdrop of Golden Gate Park. Visitors can experience a similar view from the top when the Academy of Sciences opens on September 27. "While it's quite a dramatic structure, it integrates into the environment beautifully," says McHugh. "I can't wait to see the finished product." (Check out next month's *CH+D* for a complete tour.) *—Erin Feher*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOSHUA McHUGH**
MAY 15, 2008

DESIGNING A CUSTOM HOME

THE SECRET TO CREATING THE PERFECT HOUSE? GETTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON BOARD.

When every detail of a house has to be the best it can be, you need to consult experts in each area. Luxury homes often require a multitude of professionals including an architect, builder, interior designer, landscape designer, lighting specialist, home-electronics specialist and product specialists. While the need for talented professionals is a given, even more important is that they have expertise in a particular specialization. Read on for a list of custom-home professionals.

BUILDERS

BAY WEST BUILDERS: Builders are the linchpin of any construction project. Once a home is designed, it's the builder's responsibility to stay true to the architect's vision through the careful coordination of an army of subcontractors, designers and product specialists. This is no small task. That's why builders who rise to meet these challenges are revered in the industry. Not only do other project members enjoy working with them, but they also please their clients by completing the project on time. That's why, in addition to delivering high-quality, well-crafted homes, Bay West Builders goes to great pains to communicate with their colleagues and offers solutions to whatever problems may arise. "I never assume that everything is going to work exactly as it was designed," says president Derek Gray. "We try to take a proactive approach to problem solving by searching for potential issues before construction begins, and if I do find a conflict between the design and construction, I'll suggest an alternative."

INTERIOR DESIGNERS

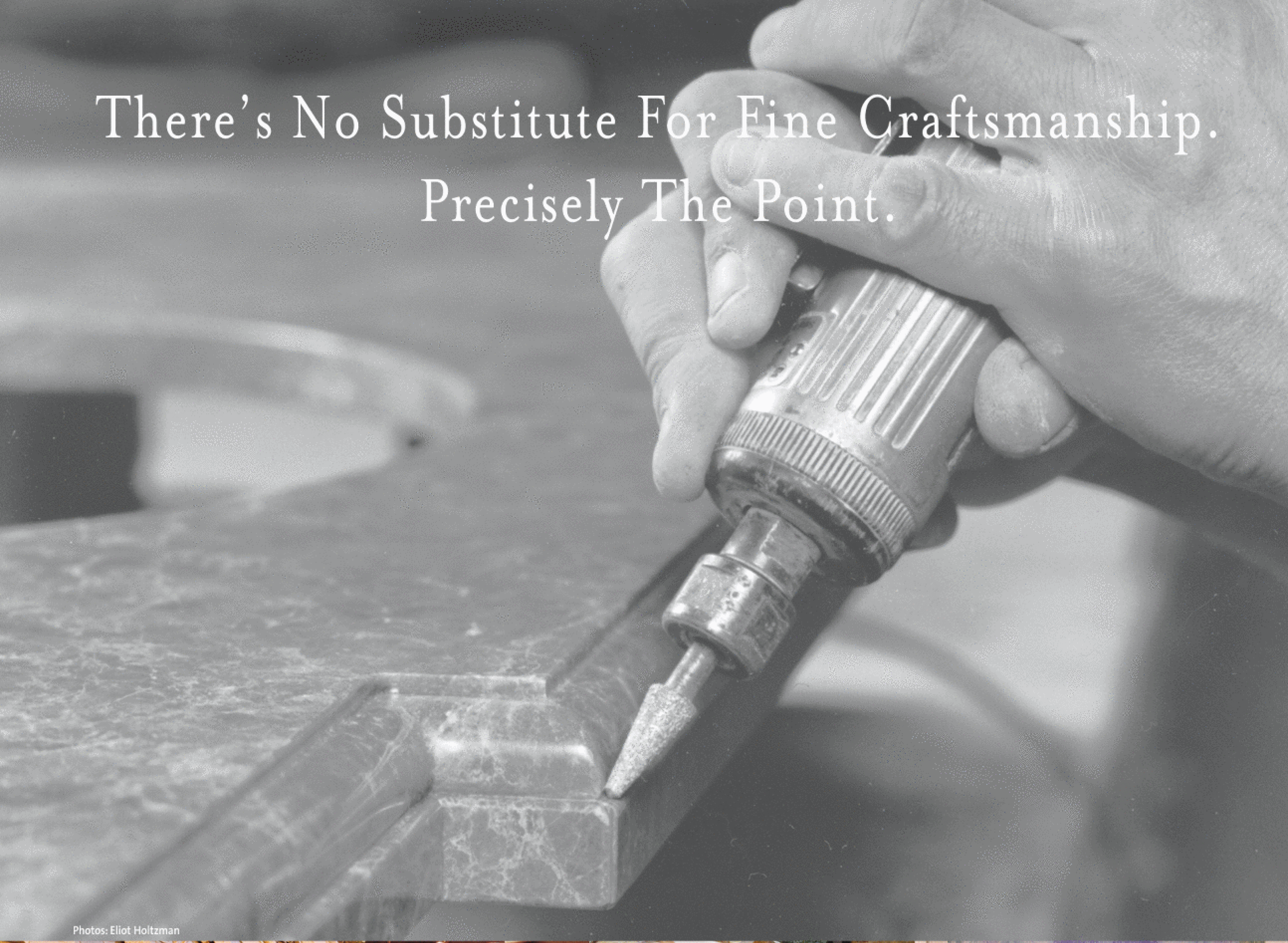
CABANA HOME: It's not uncommon for people to want their home to look like Cabana Home's elegant showroom in Mill Valley. And although husband-and-wife owners Michael and Leisa Snyder no doubt appreciate the validation, Cabana Home is more about their clients' taste than theirs. This high-end home furnishings retailer also offers design services and will soon be launching an online marketplace. "I think what makes us different from other home furnishings stores is our unique approach to customer service. We're akin to a boutique firm—big enough to articulate an overall look and vision, but still small enough to give each customer the service they deserve," says Michael. Cabana Home further distinguishes itself by carrying an extensive library of textiles for both interior and exterior environments. "Color, texture and pattern is ultimately what personalizes your living environment," Michael says.

WHEELER DESIGN GROUP: Marian Wheeler, principal designer of Wheeler Design Group, is no stranger to teamwork. Known throughout the Bay Area for her custom-home interiors, Wheeler is often the first dream team member approached on new construction projects—prior to even the architect or the builder! This is due to Wheeler's extensive reputation as an exceptional designer who takes the time to get to

Marian Wheeler, principal designer of Wheeler Design Group, integrates architecture, interior design and the work of fine artisans to create this tranquil residence.

MATTHEW MILLMAN

know her clients. Consequently, she's often referred to other family members and friends. Wheeler also takes a holistic approach to her interiors. Balance is critical and she never overlooks the importance



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Accent on Design

Lila Levinson
ASID, CKD, CID

"Always keep the client's perspective and best interests in mind," says Lila Levinson, the creative heart and soul of Accent on Design. It's a philosophy that's guided her interior design practice since 1980. Back then, friends and family kept asking her to take on design projects for them. "Eventually, I figured, if I'm going to do this, I might as well do it right."

For Levinson, "doing it right" meant picking up a design degree and the right credentials — becoming a professional member of ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), a CKD (Certified Kitchen Designer) and a CID (Certified Interior Designer). To look at the wall in her office filled with design awards — including Designer of the Year in 1990 — and accolades of every shade from best furniture design to best kitchen and bath, Levinson must be doing something very right indeed.

"Every project is unique and created to satisfy the needs, desires and tastes of my clients," Levinson says. "We start with the architecture and look at everything — natural and artificial lighting, privacy, ventilation, scale and proportion, traffic flow and maintenance as well as actual furnishings and finishes. As a designer, I go to a much greater level of detail than clients usually realize and my experience, product knowledge and sources make the process much easier for them. One client actually said, 'How do you spell relief? L - I - L - A!'"

Levinson is an excellent space planner and color coordinator, bringing these skills along with her construction knowledge and artistic eye to all projects whether they are construction-related or home furnishings and decorating. She and her staff help clients through the infinite decision process and often act as a team member along with the client, architect and builder to see that the project is cohesive.

"In the end," Levinson says, "the result must be timeless, comfortable and approachable—a place which satisfies clients' needs and makes their dreams come true."

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CHANGE IS good

The following renovation stories show how a simple idea can open the door to a complete transformation.

GREY CRAWFORD

LOST and FOUND

Trace Wilson purchased the home created for his grandfather nearly five decades earlier. Designed by San Diego architect Henry Hester, the low-slung design connects to the unspoiled landscape with walls of floor-to-ceiling glass.

Trace Wilson reclaimed a piece of his family history and updated a midcentury gem in a remote corner of the California desert.

BY **ERIN FEHER**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ANGIE SILVY**

In 2006, San Diego architect and real estate developer Trace Wilson bought himself a vacation home deep in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. However, the modest midcentury home was much more than a tranquil getaway: It came with a storied past that involved a covert cocktail party, his grandparents, a cross-country voyage and an architect that would play an important role in Wilson's life.

In the early '50s, while Palm Springs was being built up in glass and steel, an intimate cocktail party was held a bit farther south in a lone clubhouse in the middle of the desert. Attended by a group of optimistic investors, the party was hosted by publishing magnate James S. Copley, who encouraged his friends and colleagues to scoop up the surrounding land at $1,000 a plot. They placed the lot numbers inside a hat and each drew out the location on which they would build their desert domiciles. After a few cocktails, some swapped parcels as they tried to envision how their new community would take shape. One thing they all agreed on was that they did not want to attract the vacationing masses like the ones descending on Palms Springs.

At the end of that evening, David B. Givler, an Illinois attorney, was left holding two adjacent lots. On one parcel he planned to build a modest vacation home, and the other he would preserve for the pristine desert view—regardless of what the future held for the remote oasis. Givler and his wife, Fran, commissioned San Diego modernist architect Henry Hester to design a home where they could escape the cold Midwestern winters for half the year and eventually enjoy their retirement with their family, which included a grandson named Trace.

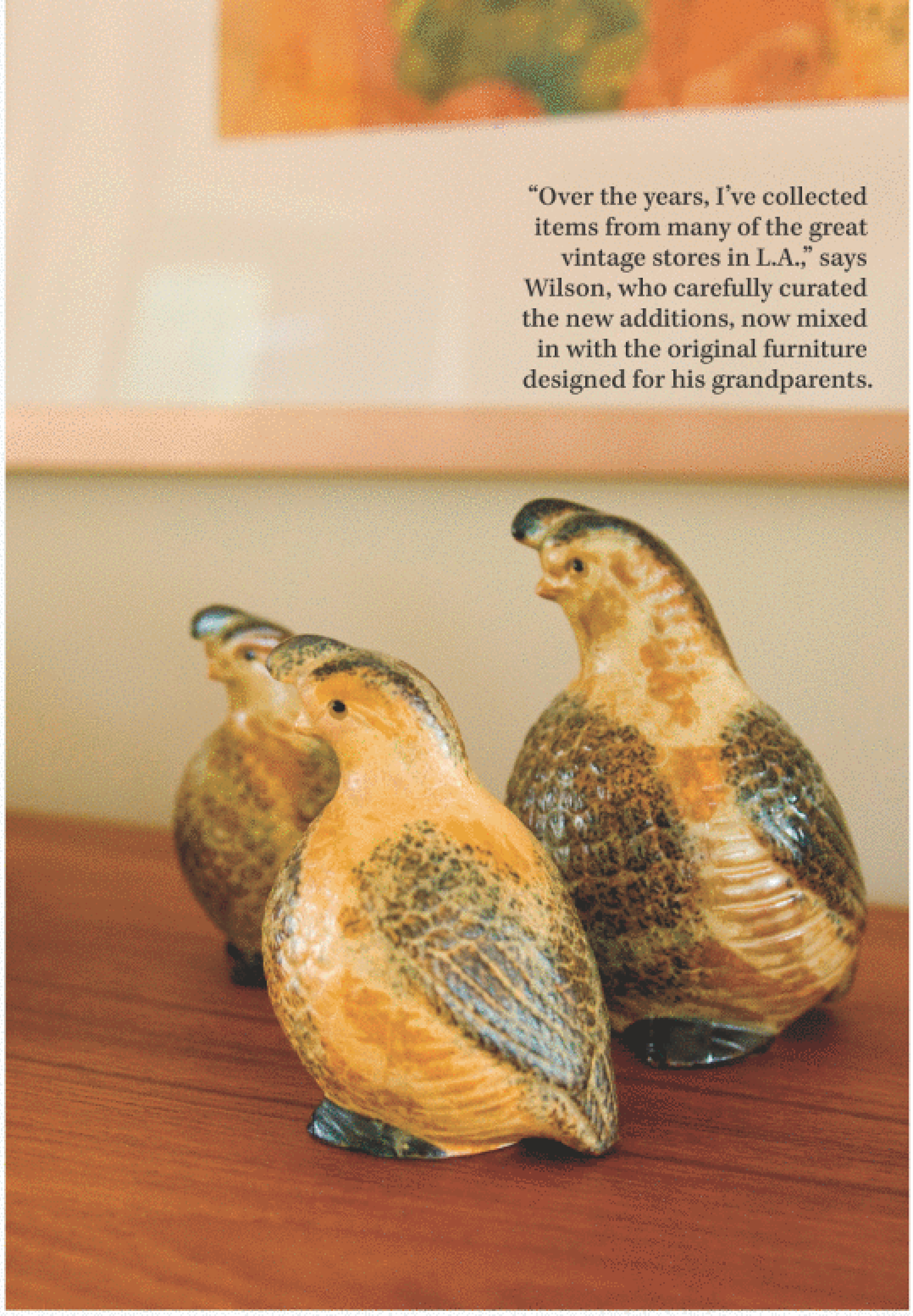
In 1958, Hester completed the 1,100-square-foot home, a simple rectangular box with walls of glass that framed the desert to the north and a rolling golf

green to the south. A substantial pergola, running perpendicular to the main house, created a shaded patio area. A small guesthouse in back provided accommodations for visiting family members. In collaboration with San Diego interior designer Gerald Jerome, Hester custom-designed all of the home's wood-framed furniture with a nod to the prevailing popularity of Danish style. Two streamlined daybeds were built for the living room, a space which doubled as the grandkids' bunkhouse during holidays and extended visits that often lasted through the winter months.

"I grew up in that house, and along with all the family memories, the design really influenced me," remembers Wilson. "That house was the reason I wanted to be an architect." But the home—known as the Givler residence—provided Wilson with more than just inspiration. As a high school student in La Jolla, Wilson signed on to be Hester's apprentice and learn the business firsthand. "I will always credit him with the essential beginnings of my architectural sensibilities," says Wilson, who went on to attend Hester's alma mater, USC's School of Architecture.

As a new era was beginning for the budding architect, another was coming to

ABOVE: Modern fabrics complement some of Hester and Jerome's original furniture designs. RIGHT: The home was always a gathering place for the family—and a place for Wilson's grandfather to perfect his putt.



"Over the years, I've collected items from many of the great vintage stores in L.A.," says Wilson, who carefully curated the new additions, now mixed in with the original furniture designed for his grandparents.

an end. In 1991, Wilson's grandfather passed away and his mother put the desert home on the market. "None of us could buy it at the time," says Wilson. "But I kept in contact with the new owner, always thinking that one day we could get it back." Wilson felt that the new owner understood what the home meant to the family. "I think he knew that I should have it one day, that I would love and cherish it and take it to the next level," says Wilson.

Yet Wilson could only stand by and watch as the home changed hands once more in 2002. While no significant architectural changes were ever made, the home's original spirit was becoming less recognizable. Over the years, the lack of meticulous upkeep was starting to dull its crisp minimalism. The custom furniture pieces were dwindling—Wilson and other family members had already taken choice items—and the newly arranged interiors strayed from the strict midcentury layout. In 2007, the Givler residence went up for sale a third time. Shortly after, a job transfer took Wilson from Los Angeles to San Diego. "I felt this was my chance, so I bought it," says Wilson. "I wanted to bring it back to the way it was meant to be."

To restore the living spaces to their original aesthetic, Wilson set out collecting the dispersed furnishings from family members. "It's a very strict house," says Wilson. "It's almost intimidating in its perfection, so I wanted to return it to just how it was designed." Luckily, the home's interim owners had felt some of that intimidation themselves and hadn't made any changes that couldn't be easily rectified. The kitchen still sported the original Formica countertops, birch cabinets and now-vintage hardware. To avoid creating a space that felt like a museum rather than a timeless vacation home, Wilson brought in a few Danish Modern pieces he had collected over the years as well as some contemporary touches: Updated upholstery on much of the furniture and a cache of new electronics bring the house into the present day.

As important to Wilson as resurrecting the home's architectural appeal was returning it to its former role as the family hangout. On display throughout the house is a selection of paintings done by Wilson's mother, an artist, from the 1950s to the present day. Wilson's sister and her husband bought a place three doors down, making family dinners effortless and adding to the number of guest rooms available for visiting relatives. "I am here as often as possible," says Wilson. "And now it's just like it used to be. Every holiday, the whole family is here."

Despite being a strict preservationist, Wilson is contemplating a few changes, such as adding a pool and a garden to expand the courtyard. But, surrounded by family and the still-unspoiled desert view, he admits he's not in any hurry. "This is a home built to hold on to for a long, long time." ■

LEFT: Wilson re-created the living room just as he remembered it, complete with the daybeds he slept on as a child. BELOW: He has since graduated to the master bedroom, which boasts a view unchanged by time.

THE HOUSE on the LAGOON

Architect Aleck Wilson overhauled a house in Belvedere, creating a modernist retreat with cinematic views.

BY **JULIE CARLSON** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CÉSAR RUBIO**
STYLING BY **ROB OXENHAM/ARTIST UNTIED**

Architect Aleck Wilson's renovation of a Belvedere ranch involved opening up the residence to views of Mt. Tamalpais in front and the Belvedere Lagoon in the back. A stone wall separates the living areas into two zones.

Perhaps it's destiny that Terry Castle lives with her family on a lagoon, a word heavy with horror-movie associations (take, for instance, *Creature from the Black Lagoon*). Her father is William Castle, a director of 1950s and '60s–era horror-movie classics including *The Tingler*, starring Vincent Price; the producer of *Rosemary's Baby*; and the author of an autobiography titled *Step Right Up! I'm Gonna Scare the Pants Off America*.

In 2004, Castle, a film producer and children's-television executive, her husband, attorney Tom Newell, and their two sons, Will and Kyle, moved to the Belvedere Lagoon after living in the hills of Tiburon for 10 years. "I've always been drawn to the water," Castle says. "Growing up in Los Angeles, my family spent weekends and vacations at our house near Point Dume in Malibu. My mother grew up in Holland, and when I first saw our house, it reminded me of the Dutch vacation cottages on the North Sea."

One of the better-kept secrets in Marin, Belvedere Lagoon is a 66-acre body of shallow water located between Belvedere Island and the Tiburon Peninsula. The lagoon was partially filled after World War II to connect the island to the peninsula and to provide building sites for tract housing. Lined with just 232 private homes, the lagoon is accessible only to residents, who paddle the waterways in kayaks, swim all summer long and drop in on one another for cocktails and barbecues.

At one end of the living room, Wilson removed a loft that lowered the height of the dining area and its spiral staircase. He also extended the room's high-beamed ceiling to the back wall, where floor-to-ceiling windows look out to a patio.

The family's 3,000-square-foot home, a modest ranch house that had been remodeled in the 1980s, was in need of some updating. The kitchen was dark, with a Spanish tile floor, and a spiral staircase in the living room led to an awkward loft space over the dining area. The family room was an atrium-like addition that appeared tacked-on to the house. Instead of diving immediately into a renovation, the couple occupied their home for a couple of years "to get a sense of how the house lived and how light moved through the interiors," Newell says.

When it came time to hire an architect, the couple didn't venture far, calling on their lagoon neighbor Aleck Wilson. A third-generation

RIGHT: Homeowners Tom Newell and Terry Castle hang out with their neighbor and architect, Aleck Wilson (seated in back). BELOW: The family room is the perfect spot for the couple's two sons to relax between the kitchen and the backyard.

San Franciscan and a third-generation architect familiar with the local vernacular, Wilson was particularly well-suited to the job.

"Aleck came up with five sketches for the renovation," Castle says. "His visions were very different and much more radical than our original intentions. We had been trying to fix what was there, and instead we went with a more aggressive plan."

The house looks out on Mt. Tamalpais to the west and offers direct access to Belvedere Lagoon in the back. The previous plan neglected to capitalize on the views, so Wilson came up with an altogether new layout that involved tearing out the center section of the house and creating an airy new living area. "Aleck's plan was more contemporary than what I am used to," Castle says. "But I find that as I get older, my taste changes."

To start, Wilson reconfigured the front of the house, moving the entryway to the far south side. Now when you open the front door, you are greeted with a spectacular view of the lagoon behind the house. When the front door and 19-foot-wide NanaWall accordion glass doors to the rear are both open, cooling cross breezes sweep through.

In a dramatic move, Wilson designed a massive masonry wall that traverses the interior space and continues out to the front of the house, defining the exterior entryway. Inside, the wall separates two areas: the kitchen/family room on one side, and the more formal living/dining area on the other. Floor-to-ceiling windows on either side of the fireplace in the living room frame a view of Mt. Tamalpais, and French doors topped with generous windows in the rear dining room afford spectacular views of the lagoon. In back, a fieldstone patio runs the length of the rear facade, and gives way to a level grassy lawn leading to the dock.

The interior finishes are sleek yet warm—the masonry wall is clad in imported vintage Spanish ceiling tiles, shaped like bricks, that give off a soft golden glow. The floors are reclaimed five-inch-wide oak planks from Restoration Timber—"predistressed," as Wilson says, the better to stand up to salty wet footprints. ("This truly is a beach house," Castle notes.) The kitchen counters and backsplash are limestone, and the island is fumed oak that has been darkened to resemble wenge wood. Open shelves in the kitchen serve as a display area for Castle's collection of 18th-century German faience steins, which she inherited from her mother. In other display niches in the kitchen, two Ming Dynasty pieces and a Daum Nancy painted glass vase add color and a sense of history.

Artifacts from Castle's well-traveled upbringing animate the spaces throughout the house. In the living room, Castle mixed modern pieces such as black leather Barcelona chairs and a pair of large Sonoma landscapes by Wade Hoefer with flamboyant pieces from her father's Hollywood office—a mirrored Art Deco coffee table and a lacquered pigskin bar with a reflective interior that screams glamour. Niches cut

TOP LEFT: The kitchen and front entrance were overhauled entirely. ABOVE: Wilson re-created the middle section of the house, moving the entrance to the other side and replacing a small bay window with a masonry chimney flanked by windows.

BEFORE

Opening up the back of the house to the lagoon and bringing the layout up to date for a modern family were the homeowners' main priorities. The house now leads from the front door directly through a glass wall to the backyard and the water.

into the masonry wall display pre-Colombian artifacts, and a pair of antique gilt altar candlesticks flank the fireplace. A rare Aboriginal painting on bark, acquired by Castle's father in Australia on a film shoot in the early 1960s, hangs over the fireplace. A painting by Adolphe Joseph Thomas Monticelli, a French Impressionist, hangs in the now-lofty adjacent dining area.

After the architectural drawings had been drafted and the plans approved, Newell signed up as general contractor, working with project manager Cesar Lopez to oversee all phases of construction. "Every detail is very deliberate," Wilson says. "The reduction in decoration means the quality of the construction had to be very high."

The commitment to perfection didn't make Newell's job any easier. But despite the challenges, progress was swift. "We started our renovation in October and moved in at the end of July," Newell says. "It helped that Aleck lived nearby on the lagoon. When we were working on the masonry wall, he came over to make sure all the bricks were perfectly aligned." Castle adds, "Aleck is a purist when it comes to form. We love the open spaces and the sense of flow in the new house, especially in the summer, when we live a true indoor/outdoor life." ■

A 1960s ranch house is transformed into a completely new world—Paris in the '70s—by Los Angeles designer Molly Luetkemeyer.

RETRO FINISHED

BY **SHERISE DORF**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GREY CRAWFORD**
STYLING BY **CHAR HATCH LANGOS**

The first thing one sees from the foyer of the Bel Air home is an enormous mural of painted stripes. The palette sets the tone for the rest of the eclectic interiors, which were created by designer Molly Luetkemeyer (pictured opposite).

When a 1960s ranch house high in the hills of Bel Air was placed on the market by its architect/builder, it was the home's potential that attracted the buyers. They were not necessarily looking for a modern house, says the wife, one of the cofounders of the Los Angeles–based nonprofit Baby2Baby, which donates gently used baby clothing and gear to families in need. They were looking for character, and were not put off by what they refer to as "deferred maintenance."

Instead of being dismayed by the dated interiors, which hadn't been touched in nearly 50 years, the couple focused on the house's pristine framework: the soaring ceilings and open layout, the sunken living room with a huge fiddle-leaf fig tree growing in its center and the wall of floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the pool and unobstructed views of the city and canyon beyond.

About to make an offer, they called designer Molly Luetkemeyer, a friend of the husband's since high school, who rushed over to help assess whether this midcentury specimen could be what they visualized: a relaxed setting in which to raise their growing family. "When I first came to this house, it blew my mind," says Luetkemeyer, founder of M. Design Interiors. "It's got that Hollywood Regency look, and it managed to be both grand and understated. How does that happen? I don't understand it, but I loved it."

The couple's resounding question, Luetkemeyer laughs, was "'Can we do it, can we do it, can we do it?' and I said, 'Yes, we can totally do it.'" The wife's next concern was that the project be done before the arrival of their second baby, just four months away. "I said, 'If you get the

The couple bought the house—along with some of its existing furniture—from the original owner, who designed and built it for himself in 1962. The living room's refinished vintage pieces helps the marble fireplace look stylish, as opposed to outdated.

right team together, then absolutely,'" says Luetkemeyer. "You will have to make fast decisions and we all have to get on the same page."

On the recommendation of close friends, the owners immediately hired contractor John Stone, who—along with project manager John Leurs—spent the next four months gutting the kitchen and renovating the bathrooms. "We kept the basic footprint, but everything else in the house got completely flipped upside down," says Luetkemeyer. Other improvements included new landscaping and a new garage door.

The biggest challenge was the kitchen, which appeared smaller than it was thanks to upper cabinets that separated the workspace from the seating area, and an odd center island that stood neither at chopping height nor bar height. "It was very confusing," says Luetkemeyer, who advised her friends to simply start over.

First, the practical issues were addressed. Noise levels in a kitchen, with all its hard surfaces, can be deafening when kids are in the picture, so Luetkemeyer "did everything possible to bring in absorptive pieces." Valances, curtains, and a cork wall used to showcase the children's artwork now soften the acoustics in the space. The designer reworked her plans for the kitchen until she achieved the simplest layout, and then brought in visual interest with a hand-printed wallpaper and fabric that cover not only the walls and windows but also the refrigerator and pocket doors. She likens the process to her fashion aesthetic, confessing, "I like the simple outfit with the shiny jewelry." Case in point: Luetkemeyer painted the wood cabinets bright white

The design team left much of the interiors intact, including built-in shelves in the den, which was painted and furnished almost entirely in mauve. "The en suite look is incredibly sophisticated and very Parisian," says Luetkemeyer.

Using the powder room's original ornate gold faucet as inspiration, the designer and homeowners went all out in their selection of fixtures and hardware. Wildly printed wallpaper adds another layer to the room's opulence.

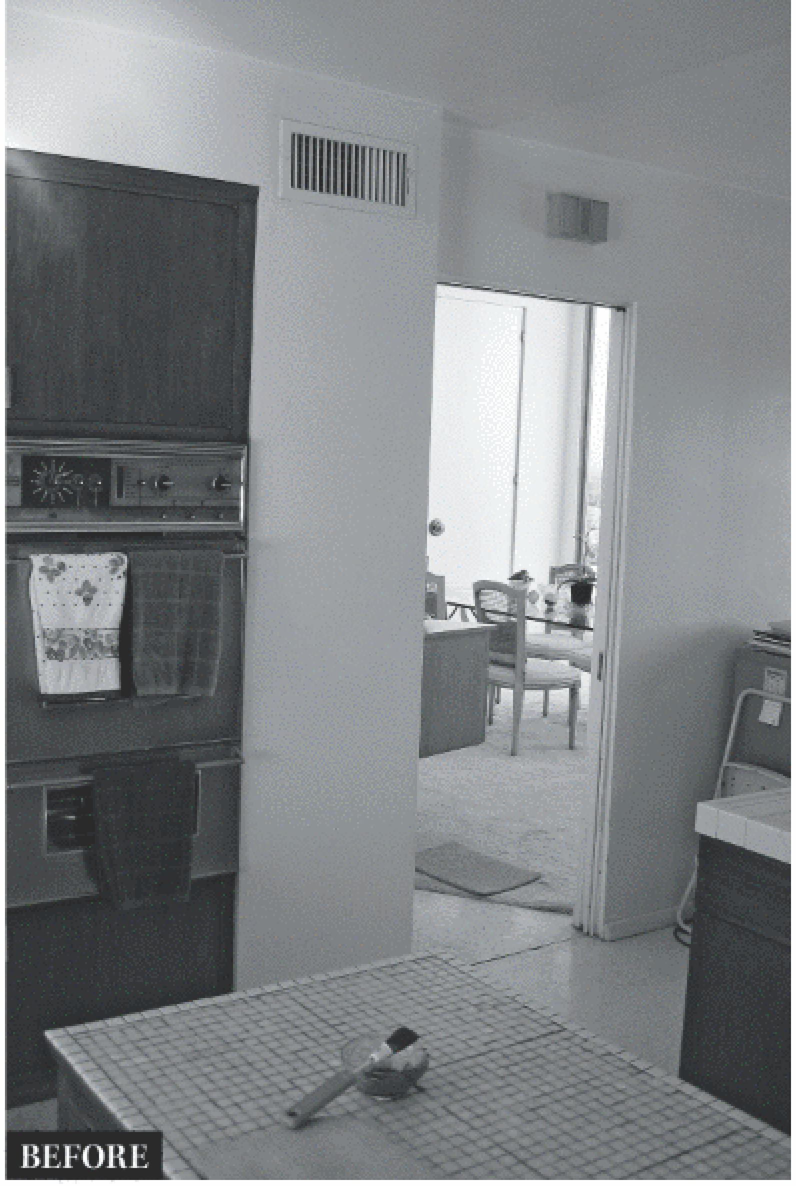
to match the new Corian countertops, and then found hardware that complements the original fixtures elsewhere in the house. "These knobs are so ornate and over-the-top, but they have a bit of humor to them, just like the homeowners do."

A collaborative approach was key to the whole process. "We had specific ideas and so did Molly," points out the husband, an actor-director. But she knew our taste and we knew hers. We had a kind of shorthand, and that's why I wouldn't have worked with anyone else." Says the wife, "We were already at the same table before we sat down."

Surveying her friends' eclectic collection of furnishings and art, Luetkemeyer took a clear style direction early on. "Looking at the house and all of their things, we came up with the idea of Paris in the '70s. That became the theme of the house."

The threesome decided that comfortable, family-friendly rooms were what they were after, but knew that they couldn't forfeit style or a sense of humor in this pursuit. A bright-pink handrail—inspired by the 1975 Antonioni film *The Passenger*—greets guests at the curb and leads up to the massive front doors. The entry, with its original terrazzo floors, offers the first view of the living room's main attraction: a '70s-inspired wall of bold painted diagonal stripes. "It's dynamic and unifying because it takes colors from all the different spaces and puts them right up front," says Luetkemeyer. "It had to be that scale, because that's the beauty of the space—it's got this incredible height and openness. To not address it would have left the room completely unconsidered."

In the living room, Luetkemeyer selected shades of mauve, blue and orange, convincing the owners



The old kitchen was not only awkwardly arranged, but also a bit dull. Luetkemeyer banished all remnants of boredom with enough yards of a bright floral print to cover the walls, refrigerator, windows and doors.

The dining room's built-in floating sideboard was one of the first features that attracted the homeowners to the house. Painted in a vibrant glossy orange, it continues to be everyone's favorite focal point.

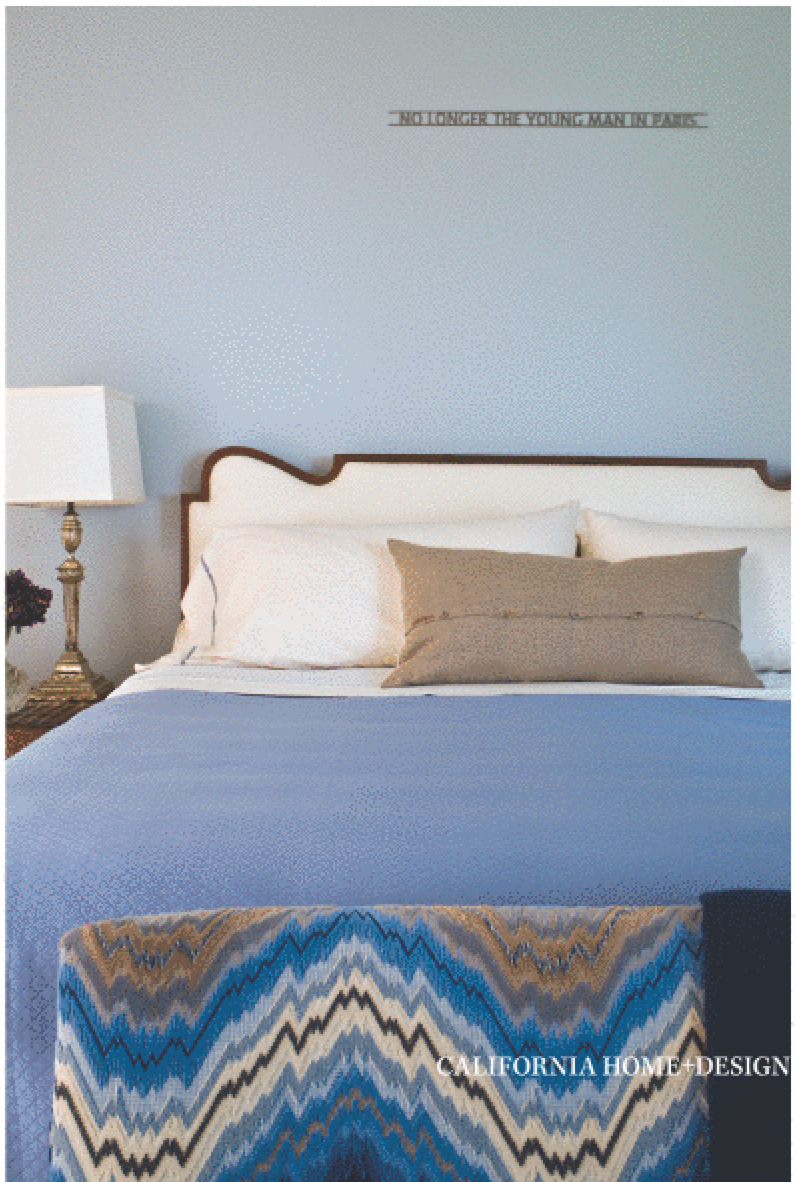
that with the right palette surrounding it, the original marble fireplace in the living room would lose its cheesy, '80s vibe. With the designer's blessing, the couple decided to purchase—and refinish or reupholster—some of the former owner's furniture, including a oversize modular sofa and marble-inlaid coffee table.

In the dining room, an antique Russian porcelain terrine coexists with a graffiti artist's cut-mirror art, and a vintage starburst light fixture hangs over a grandmother's well-worn farmhouse table. The house's original floating sideboard is everyone's favorite item in the house, now that it's been lacquered the perfect shade of orange.

For the den, the husband decided to go with "this crazy mauve," laughs Luetkemeyer. "You think of it as an iconic early '80s color and sort of yucky, yet I knew that my strong revulsion to it meant I had to think about it more. And the more I thought about it, I realized that it's actually interesting." Inspired, she took the color everywhere—not only painting the den walls mauve, but also choosing the same shade for fabric on the sofas and a leather inset on the custom bar.

The collaboration continued in the master bedroom, where there were periwinkle walls, a Knoll chair, a custom headboard and curtains made with a "really boho" fabric. But Luetkemeyer implored the couple to go big. "Guys, it's missing your funk," she said. "We need one piece to do it." The couple came through with a settee for the end of the bed that the designer re-covered in flame-stitch fabric. "It gave the room this blast of color, something a little bit unexpected," Luetkemeyer says. "And it works." ■

ABOVE: The only alteration to the backyard was the addition of a solar heating system to the pool. RIGHT: The flame-stitch fabric covering a chair at the end of the bed is the team's signature wink in the master bedroom.



out of office

With the newest desks and accessories, a long day on the job feels like anything but work.

BY **MIKHAEL ROMAIN**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **STAN MUSILEK**

HOME GAME

Stasis desk by Gary Hutton for Studio Workshops ($12,340); Bottega chair in burnt orange leather from Design Within Reach ($799); cherry stationery box ($125) and orange Kubisphere ($36), both from Crane & Co.; Twiggy table lamp by Foscarini ($675).

POWER PLAY

West Elm's Sawhorse Worktable ($479); Allsteel's Acuity chair in white ($2,500); Artemide's Itis lamp in white ($395); Font clock by Sebastian Wrong for Established & Sons ($450); "I'm Not a Paper Cup" porcelain mug with silicone lid from The Curiosity Shoppe ($19).

NET PROFIT

Andre Arbus' 1932 Le Guillaume desk reproduced by William Switzer ($30,330); James chair upholstered in raffia from Williams-Sonoma Home ($2,050); Restoration Hardware's metal ball bookends ($69/pair); cream leather frame from Gump's ($200); Crane & Co's chrome Apple dish ($20).

LUNCH BREAK

Two-tone Simone desk from Applegate Tran Furniture ($5,100); Arper's white metal Leaf chair from Dzine ($770); Restoration Hardware's ivory Greenwich frame ($22); Chelsea square silver clock ($250) and letter holder in mushroom shagreen ($65), both from Gump's. *See resource guide, p. 122.*

ROOF ACCESS

With the help of Melander Architects, a San Francisco couple finds a way to make their city home work for their retirement years.

BY **LYDIA LEE** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MATTHEW MILLMAN**

Living together for 28 years in their Dolores Heights residence, Tom Given and Bill Wilkinson are old hands at renovations. But recently they completed their biggest project yet: adding an elevator and rebuilding the top floor of their five-level home.

Currently, navigating the home's many stairs poses no problem for either Given, a former trial lawyer, or Wilkinson, a hotelier who managed the Stanford Court Hotel in Nob Hill and built Campton Place in Union Square, and then, as his retirement project, saved the produce company Greenleaf from bankruptcy. But when Wilkinson was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a few years ago, the issue of wheelchair accessibility came to the forefront.

"Most of us just live in this day-to-day denial of aging," says Given. "The Parkinson's was a reminder to us that no, you are really going to have to plan for this contingency. The idea is to be able to grow old in the city and not have to leave. If we got a single-level home out in the

Preferring to stay put rather than move, the homeowners retrofitted their house with an elevator. On the newly rebuilt top floor, the elevator opens into the master suite's library alcove. OPPOSITE: Located on a steep hillside site, the 1938 Dolores Heights home has five levels.

To add an elevator (right), Melander Architects had to displace a kitchen courtyard (bottom). But the addition of a skylight over the old courtyard space helps preserve the bright natural lighting within the kitchen and breakfast area (below).

country, I think I'd die of boredom. We're on a little hill above three wonderful urban villages—we're three blocks from Noe Valley, the heart of Valencia Street and the new gourmet ghetto along 18th Street. I can't think of a better place to spend time."

To improve the classic 1938 row house over the years, the couple had opened up the archway in the living room, remodeled the kitchen and reconfigured the layout of the rooms and hallways. Yearning for a suburban-style oasis, they had even purchased the property next door so they could double the backyard and fit a rectangular pool next to a neat expanse of grass.

But all these changes were just "tinkering around," says Wilkinson. "Most of the time, a remodel starts off with, 'make it pretty, make it bigger, give me more closet space,'" says Given. "This was much more about structural engineering." Because of the house's older construction, adding an elevator shaft turned out to be akin to building a house within a house, complete with its own poured-concrete foundation and steel framing.

For this renovation, the two worked with Eric Robinson and Kurt Melander of Melander Architects in San Francisco. "We saw

one of the buildings they were finishing up, and its simplicity and sense of space resonated with us," says Given. On their end, the architects appreciated working with seasoned renovators. "Tom and Bill understood the mess, the money, the drudgery and how long things take, which can be frustrating," says Robinson.

Adding to the complexity of the project was the home's hillside layout, with its five distinct levels. From the street, it appears to have only two stories over a garage, but the back half of the house was built a half story up. The master suite, kitchen and living room are in front, while the family room and guest quarters overlook the backyard.

In order to provide access to both the front and back of the house, the elevator had to be located between the two halves. "The only feasible spot for the elevator was through the kitchen courtyard," says Robinson. After making that determination, the architects set about working through the ramifications. In a deft move to save the natural lighting that the courtyard provided, they added a skylight in the kitchen. One floor above, the sturdy glass skylight becomes a balcony floor, expanding the new master suite.

The old top floor had spectacular views of the city. But it had been surreptitiously added without a permit by the previous owners in the 1940s, and the planned elevator's location fell outside the bedroom's floor plan, warranting a complete redesign of the floor. "I am a little strong-willed—I know what I want and how I want it. But having built a few hotels, I've learned a lot about listening to architects and designers," says Wilkinson. "I would have built another box on the roof, but Kurt and Eric helped us come up with something more graceful."

In the new design, the master suite retains a bird's-eye view. An east-facing wall of sliding glass doors opens to an endless vista of the city's rolling hills with the Bay Bridge in the distance, while clerestory windows on the south wall balance out

After living in their house for 28 years, Bill Wilkinson and Tom Given have developed a comfortable, polished style. Sticking to a neutral palette throughout the house, they furnished their family room with a mix of textures in varying shades of brown.

The new master suite has an entire wall of sliding glass doors. "On a nice day, when you open up the doors, the whole room feels like it's outside," says Tom Given. The panorama stretches across the water to the East Bay hills in the distance.

TOP: The master shower is fitted with a sleek grab bar ("Someday, we're all going to need a grab bar," says architect Eric Robinson). ABOVE: To create a suburban-style backyard, the homeowners bought the adjoining property and added a pool.

the light in the room. Creating a separate space within the suite, the architects designed a library alcove with a dropped ceiling at one end. The master bathroom was designed for wheelchair accessibility, with a doorway that has no threshold and grab bars that double as towel racks.

The couple's enthusiasm for the newly remodeled space is evident—from the delight they take in the elegant marble bath ("I think they did an amazing job matching up the tile," says Wilkinson) to their appreciation for a small door in the stairwell that leads to the roof ("When it's really warm, we have this secret door that gives us extra cross-ventilation," says Given). Underpinning their comments is a sense of joyful relief that they've seen their way to a future in their beloved city. Says Given, "I always had this vision of growing old here, of me banging my cane on the bus door saying, 'Let me in, let me in!" instead of quietly...." Wilkinson completes his partner's thought: "Instead of quietly watching the grass grow somewhere. We're here for the duration." ■

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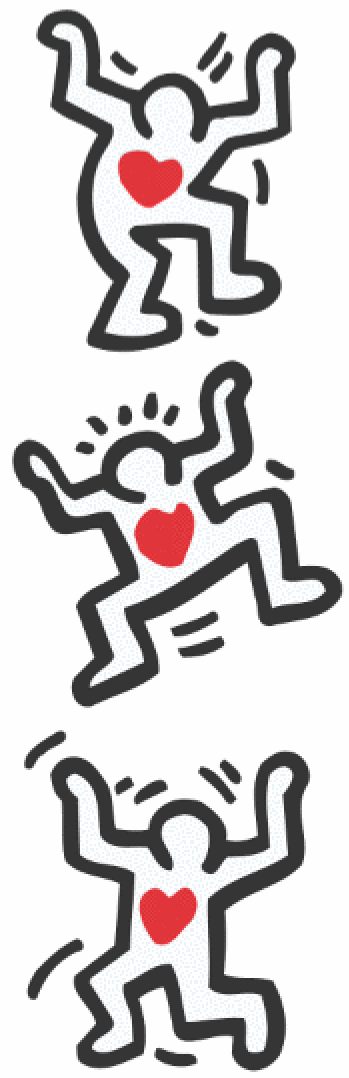

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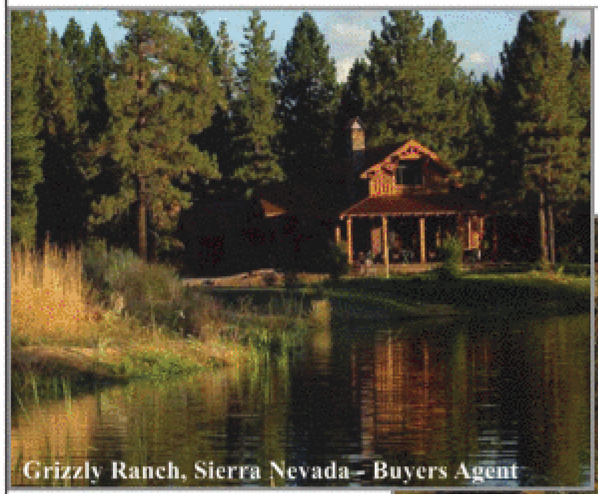

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RESOURCE GUIDE

HERE YOU'LL FIND SOURCE INFORMATION ON SOME OF THE ITEMS SHOWN IN THIS ISSUE; WHERE POSSIBLE, WE'VE LISTED LOCAL VENDORS. MANY OF THE FURNISHINGS SEEN IN THESE HOMES MAY BE UNAVAILABLE TO BUY IF THEY ARE ANTIQUES OR CUSTOM-MADE.

COVER

Interior design: Molly Luetkemeyer, M. Design Interiors, 7421 Beverly Blvd., Ste.10, L.A., 323-933-2981, mdesignla.com, Contractor: Stone Construction Company, 310-288-1753; Landscape design: Judy Dragon, 310-951-9332.

DEAR READER

PAGE 34 On Heather Hartle: Marc Jacobs navy cashmere dress, Marc Jacobs, 125 Maiden Ln., SF, 415-362-6500, marcjacobs.com.

A STUDY IN CONTRAST

PAGE 58 Stool: Judy Ross Textiles, 212-842-1705, judyrosstextiles .com; Wallpaper: Eden & Eden, 560 Jackson St., SF, 415-983-0490, edenandeden.com; Fabric: marimekko.us; Pouf: Aris, 1155 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, 949-497-8300; Bookshelf: Horm.it.

WOMAN AT WORK

PAGE 64 Arcadia Maximo, Maximo Construction, 415-587-3734, maximoconstruction.com.

THE JOY OF PAINTING

PAGE 66 Shirley Robinson, Robinson Finishes, 415-533-1730.

POOLSIDE MENTALITY

PAGE 68 Andy Hackman, California Living, 601 N. La Brea Ave., L.A., 323-930-2601.

THE HOUSE ON THE LAGOON

Architect: Aleck Wilson, Aleck Wilson Architects, 10 Lombard St., Ste. 210, SF, 415-765-9095, aleckwilsonarchitects.com; Landscape design: Ken Mendonca, Ken Mendonca Design, 415-566-9685; Project manager: Cesar Lopez, 415-726-1355; Structural engineer: Morris Engineering, 1301 Shoreway Rd., Ste.107, Belmont, 650-595-2973, morriseng.com; Color consultant: Christy Palmisano, Patinae Color, 415-608-2666.

PAGES 94-96 (LIVING ROOM) Chairs and sofas: Blueprint Furniture,

8366 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 323-653-2439, bluefurniture.com; Art above fireplace: Homeowner's own; Stone: Exquisite Surfaces, 150 15th St., Ste. B, SF, 415-431-7300, xsurfaces.com; Windows and French doors: Marvin Windows and Doors, 185 Industrial St., SF, 415-282-6192, marvin.com; Coffee table: Homeowner's own; Wall nooks: Larry Cockerill, 510-684-8026.

PAGE 97 (PORTRAIT) Art: *Negroso VII* and *Negroso I*, Wade Hoefer, Elins Eagles-Smith Gallery, 49 Geary St., Ste. 520, SF, 415-981-1080, eesgallery.com; Stone: Exquisite Surfaces, 150 15th St., Ste. B, SF, 415-431-7300, xsurfaces.com; Floor: Restoration Timber, 150 De Haro St., SF, 415-651-4276, restorationtimber.com.

PAGE 97 (FAMILY ROOM) Sofa: Pottery Barn, 2390 Market St., SF, 415-861-0800, potterybarn.com; Coffee table: Bloomingdale's, 845 Market St., SF, 415-856-5300, bloomingdales.com; Chairs: Eames, Design Within Reach, 1913 Fillmore St., SF, 415-567-1236, dwr.com; White shelves and cabinets: Herb Zacks Woodworks, 707-664-8241, hzwoodworkz.com.

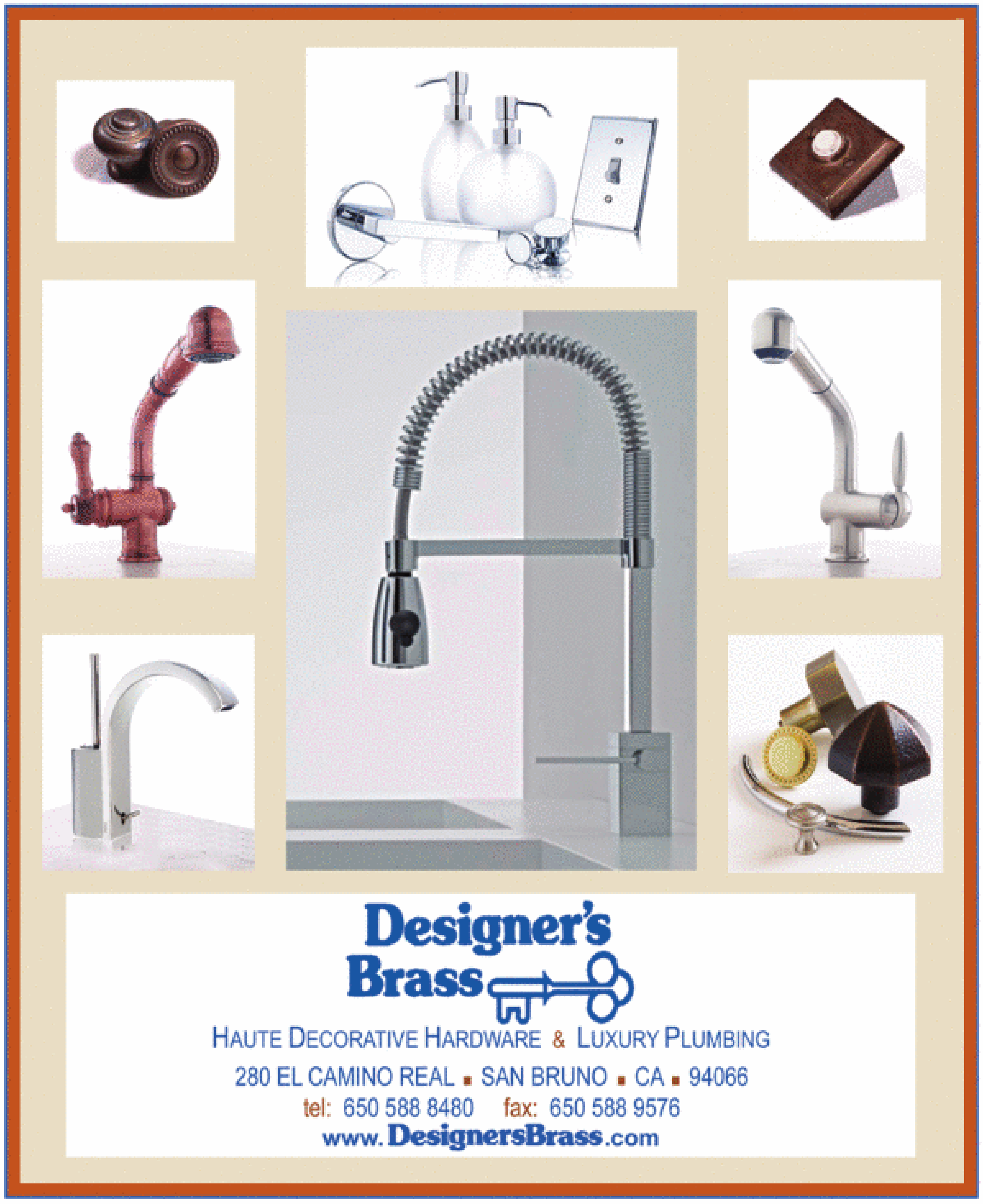
PAGE 98 (FAMILY ROOM /KITCHEN) Beams: Scott Coulter Finishers, 831-393-9525; Floor: Restoration Timber, 111 Rhode Island St., Ste. F, SF, 888-563-9663, restorationtimber.com; Sofa: Pottery Barn, 2390 Market St., SF, 415-861-0800, potterybarn.com; Coffee table: Bloomingdale's, 845 Market St., SF, 415-856-5300, bloomingdales.com; Chairs: Eames, Design Within Reach, 1913 Fillmore St., SF, 415-567-1236, dwr.com; Kitchen cabinets: Herb Zacks Woodworks, 707-664-8241, hzwoodworkz.com; Island: Walker Zanger, 101 Henry Adams St., Ste. 412, SF, 415-487-2130, walkerzanger.com; Stone: Carrera Marble, 39 Bay St., San Rafael, 415-454-4647, carrera-marble.com; Countertop and backsplash: Haussmann Natural Stone, 25057 Viking St., Hayward, 510-782-5100, haussmannstone.com.

PAGE 100 (EXTERIOR) Window wall: NanaWall Systems, 707 Redwood Hwy., Mill Valley, 800-873-5673, nanawall.com; Stone: Exquisite Surfaces, 150 15th St., Ste. B, SF, 415-431-7300, xsurfaces .com; Floor: Restoration Timber, 111 Rhode Island St., Ste. F, SF, 888-563-9663, restorationtimber.com; Adirondack chairs: Cost Plus, 2552 Taylor St., SF, 415-928-6200, worldmarket.com; Outdoor furniture: Allegro Classics, 929 Carnellia St., Berkeley, 877-727-8800, allegroclassics.com.

PAGE 101 (KITCHEN) Windows: Marvin Windows and Doors, 185 Industrial St., SF, 415-282-6192, marvin.com; Stone: Exquisite Surfaces, 150 15th St., Ste. B, SF, 415-431-7300, xsurfaces.com; Art: *The North Sea*, Cornelius Roos, Cosmopolitan Fine Arts, 7932 Girard Ave., 858-456-9506, cosmopolitanart.com.

RETRO FINISHED

Interior design: Molly Luetkemeyer, M. Design Interiors, 7421 Beverly Blvd., Ste.10, L.A., 323-933-2981, mdesignla.com; Contractor: Stone



RESOURCE GUIDE

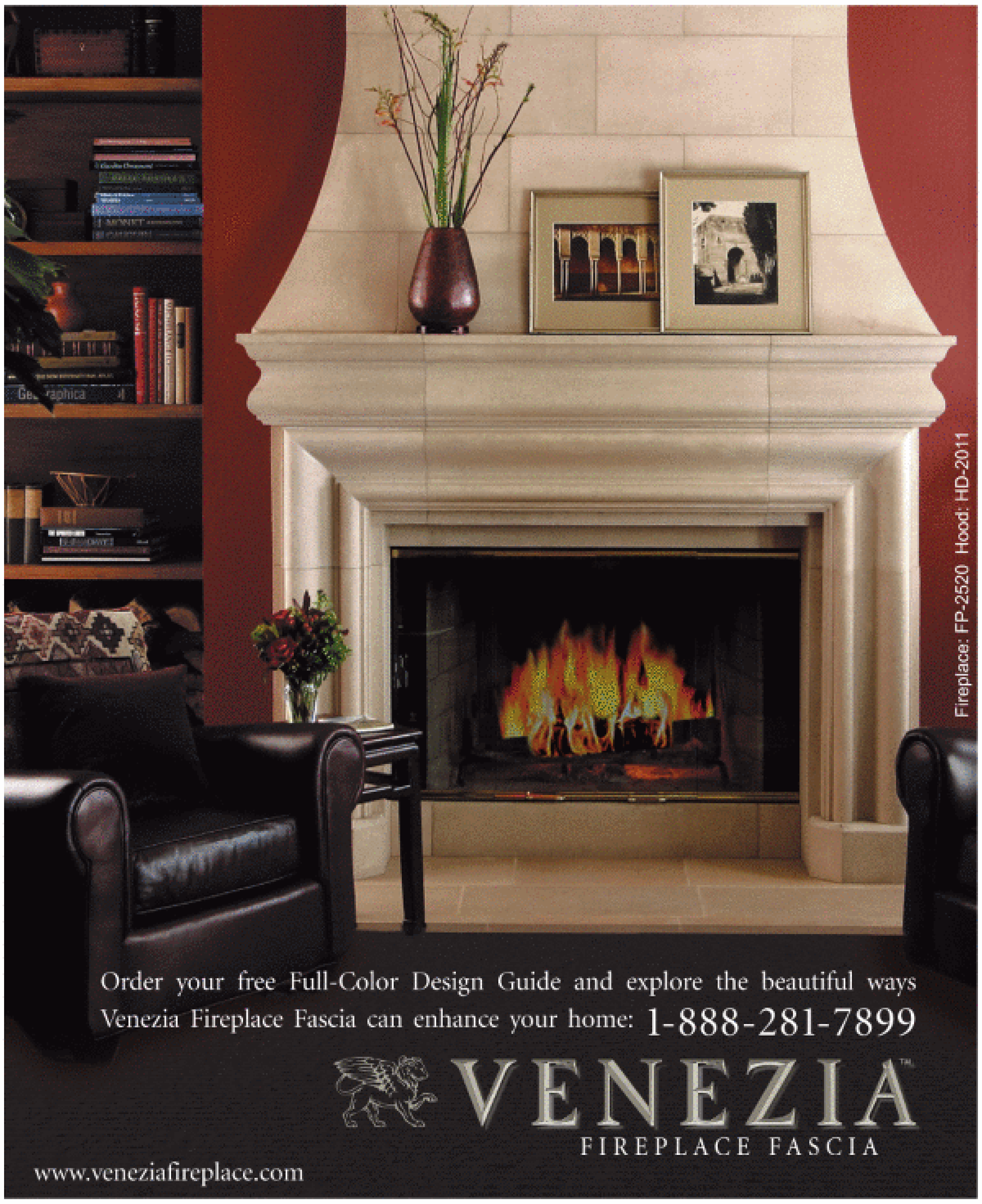
Construction Company, 310-288-1753; Landscape design: Judy Dragon, 310-951-9332.

PAGES 102-103 (LIVING ROOM) Carpet: Designer Floor Coverings, 471 N. Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood, 310-274-9857, designerfloorcoverings.com; Coffee table: Valtekz, 930 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC, 704-332-5277, valtekz.com; Ottoman: Homeowner's own; Ottoman fabric: Hinson & Co., 8687 Melrose Ave., Ste. B-690, West Hollywood, 310-659-1400; Mural: Straight Lines Painting, 310-390-9480; Blue chairs: The Estate Sale Co., 4185 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 760-321-7628; Brown chair fabric: Osborne & Little, 90 Commerce Rd., Stamford, CT, 203-359-1500, osborneandlittle.com; Marble coffee table: Homeowner's own, Sofa fabric: Diamond Foam & Fabric, 611 S. La Brea, L.A., 323-931-8148, diamondfoamandfabrics .com; Pillow: China Seas, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 310-657-2995; Table lamp: Paul Evans, Fantasy Lighting, 7126 Melrose Ave., L.A., 323-933-7244, fantasylightingla.com; Orange side table: Homeowner's own; Wood bench: Homeowner's own; Bench cushion: Seacloth, 107 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, CT, 203-422-6150, seacloth.com.

PAGE 104 (LIVING ROOM DETAIL) Sofa: Casa Victoria Furniture, 1051 1/2 S. Fairfax Ave., L.A., 323-934-3591; Sofa fabric: F. Schumacher & Co., 8687 Melrose Ave., Ste. B-489, West Hollywood, 310-652-5253, fschumacher.com; Coffee table: Valtekz, 930 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC, 704-332-5277, valtekz.com.

PAGE 105 (DEN) Wall color: "2105-50 Sand Pebble," Benjamin Moore, Fregosi & Company Paint, 1090 Folsom St., SF, 415-431-6940, fregosipaints.com; Fireplace screen: Wilshire Fireplace, 8668 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-657-8183, wilshirefireplace.com; Art: Charlotte Culot, Art Cabinet Nantucket, 2 Union St., Nantucket, MA, 508-325-7202, artcabinet.com; Art: *Stay Good 2002*, Yoshitomo Nara, Marianne Boesky Gallery, 509 West 24th St., NYC, 212-680-9889, marianneboeskygallery.com; Art: *Straight Jacket 2002*, Yoshitomo Nara, Marianne Boesky Gallery; Cabinet hardware: Vintage, Liz's Antique Hardware, 453 S. La Brea, L.A., 323-939-4403, lahardware.com; Floors: Rode Bros., 10 Carolina St., SF, 310-670-0891, rodebros.com; Credenza: Homeowner's own; Sofa and coffee table: Homeowner's own.

Paying homage to Paris in the 1970s, designer Molly Luetkemeyer found the perfect vintage Paul Evans lamp for her redesign of a Los Angeles ranch ("Retro Finished," p. 102) at **Fantasy Lighting**. For the past 40 years, the store has provided designers and movie stylists with a range of vintage, modern and custom light fixtures and shades. "If you can't find it here, you can't find it," says owner Marc Trabulus. *Fantasy Lighting, 7126 Melrose Ave., LA, 323-933-7244, fantasylightingla.com.*



PAGE 106 (POWDER ROOM) Wallpaper: "Lotus Dynasty," Keith McCoy & Associates, 8710 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 310-657-7150; Wallpaper installer: John Peterson Wallpaper Installation, 7540 Dunbarton Ave., 310-410-4472; Floor tile: B&W Tile Co., 14600 S. Western Ave., Gardena, 310-538-9579, bwtile.com; Faucet: Plumbtile, 7256 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Ste. A, San Diego, 866-158-6284; Light fixture: Homeowner's own; Towels: Leontine Linens, 800-876-4799, leontinelinens.com; Cabinet paint color: "Old Mill," Dunn-Edwards, 4885 E. 52nd Pl., L.A., 888-337-2468, dunnedwards.com; Cabinet painter: Decorative Refinishing, 323-292-5140.

PAGE 107 (KITCHEN) Wallpaper: "Floral Vine" by Bob Collins & Sons, Keith McCoy & Associates, 8710 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 310-657-7150; Wallpaper installer: John Peterson Wallpaper Installation, 7540 Dunbarton Ave., 310-410-4472; Valence fabric: "Summervine" by Bob Collins & Sons, Keith McCoy & Associates; Cabinetry hardware: Carter Hardware, 153 N. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-657-1940; Drawer pulls: Liz's Antique Hardware, 453 S. La Brea, L.A., 323-939-4403, lahardware.com; Island: Windfall Lumber, 711 Tumwater Blvd., Ste. D, Tumwater, WA, 360-352-2250, windfalllumber .com; Countertops: Bay Cities Kitchen & Appliance, 1302 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, 310-394-2025, baycities.net; Flooring: Rode Bros., 8406 Osage Ave., L.A., 310-670-0891, rodebros.com; Barstools: Vintage, 111 Antique Mall, 2500 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 760-864-9390; Barstool refinishing: Decorative Refinishing, 323-292-5140; Chairs: Homeowner's own; Table: Unica Home, 7540 Dean Martin Dr., Las Vegas, NV, 702-739-9935, unicahome.com; Refrigerator: Amana, Lowe's, 2000 Empire Ave., Burbank, 818-557-2300, lowes.com.

PAGE 108 (DINING ROOM) Chandelier: "Sputnik," inmod.com, 877-224-6663; Rug: Madeline Weinrib Atelier, ABC Carpet & Home, 888 Broadway, 6th Fl., NYC, 212-473-3000, madelineweinrib.com; Chairs: Baker, Lawson-Fenning, 7257 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 323-934-0048, lawsonfenning.com; Chair fabric: "Mistolino" in red, Clarence House, Kneedler-Fauchère, 8687 Melrose Ave., Ste. B600, L.A., 310-855-1313; Chair refinisher: Arboleda & Co., 323-663-2020; Table: Homeowner's own; Cabinet color: "Campfire," Dunn Edwards, 4885 E. 52nd Pl., L.A., 888-337-2468, dunnedwards.com; Cabinet painter: Decorative Refinishing, 323-292-5140; Cabinet hardware: Koontz Hardware, 8914 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, 310-652-0123, koontz.com; Flooring: Rode Bros., 8406 Osage Ave., L.A., 310-670-0891, rodebros.com.

PAGE 109 (BACKYARD) Pool tile: Discount Tile Center, 8627 Venice Blvd., L.A., 310-202-1915; Striped chairs: Calypso Home, 225 26th St., Santa Monica, 310-587-0703, calypso-celle.com; Round table and chairs: Patio Collection, 2250 Barrington Ave., L.A., 310-478-7999, patiocollection.com; Cushions: Summer Living Direct, 888-922-0418, summerlivingdirect.com.

PAGE 109 (BEDROOM) Wall color: "DE6317 Mount Sterling," Dunn Edwards, 4885 E. 52nd Pl., L.A., 888-337-2468, dunnedwards.com; Headboard fabric: "Ostrich," Valtekz, 930 East Blvd., NC, 704-331-5277, valtekz.com; Bedskirt: Macy's, 8500 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 310-854-0071, macys.com; Bedcover: "Diamond Matelasse," Restoration Hardware, 131 N. La Cienega Blvd., L.A., 310-360-9651, restorationhardware .com; Sheets: Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com; Chair: Knoll, 317 Montgomery St., SF, 415-837-2100, knoll.com; Chair fabric: Brunschwig & Fils, 2 Henry Adams St., Ste. 155, SF, 415-522-1622, brunschwig.com.

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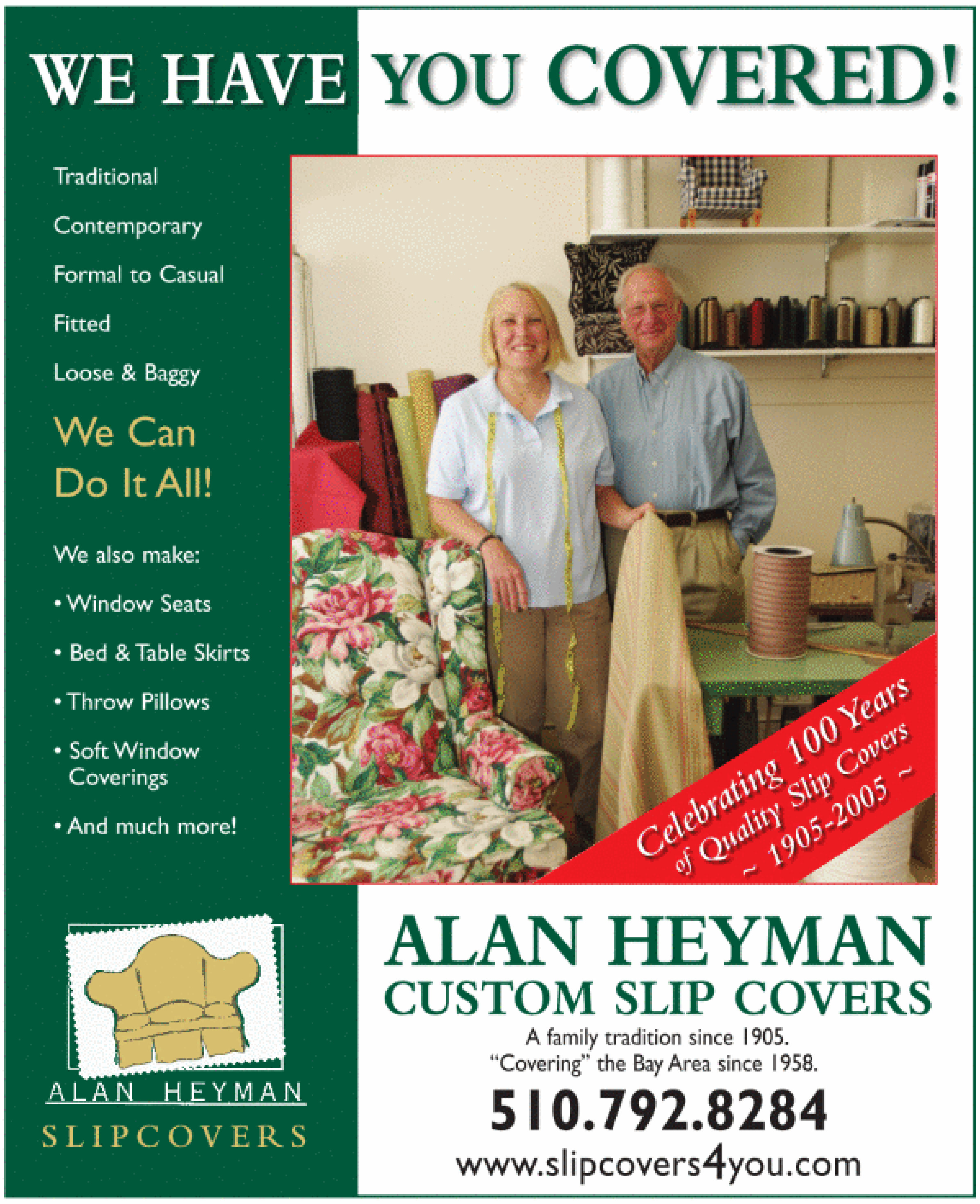

RESOURCE GUIDE

OUT OF OFFICE

PAGE 110 (HOME GAME) Desk: Studio Workshops, 151 Vermont St., SF, 415-864-0212, studioworkshops.com; Chair: Design Within Reach, 1913 Fillmore St., SF, 415-567-1236, dwr.com; Stationery box and Kubisphere: Crane & Co., 1 Embarcadero Center, SF, 415-398-2211, crane.com; Lamp: DDC LA, 290 Townsend St., SF, 415-543-5466, ddcla.com.

PAGE 111 (POWER PLAY) Desk: West Elm, 435 Corte Madera, 415-927-0202, westelm.com; Chair: Allsteel, 4 Maritime Plaza, SF, 415-677-9116, allsteeloffice.com; Lamp: Artemide, 855 Montgomery St., SF, 415-393-9955, artemidestore.com; Clock: Eden & Eden, 560 Jackson St., SF, 415-983-0490, edenandeden.com; Cup: The Curiosity Shoppe, 855 Valencia St., SF, 415-671-5384, curiosityshoppeonline.com.

PAGE 112 (LUNCH BREAK) Desk: Applegate Tran Furniture, 680 Eighth St., Ste. 260, SF, 415-487-1240, applegatetran.com; Chair: Dzine, 128 Utah St., SF, 415-674-9430, dzinestore.com; Clock: Gump's, 135 Post St., SF, 800-766-7628, gumps.com; Frame: Restoration Hardware, 1700 Redwood Hwy., Corte Madera, 415-924-8919, restorationhardware.com; Letter holder: Gump's, 135 Post St., SF, 800-766-7628, gumps.com.

PAGE 113 (NET PROFIT) Desk: William Switzer, 145 Rhode Island St., SF, 415-621-0575, williamswitzercollection.com; Chair: Williams-Sonoma Home, 8772 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, 310-289-2420, wshome.com; Bookends: Restoration Hardware, 1700 Redwood Hwy., Corte Madera, 415-924-8919, restorationhardware.com; Frame: Gump's, 135 Post St., SF, 800-766-7628, gumps.com, Dish: Crane & Co., 1 Embarcadero Center, SF, 415-398-2211, crane.com.

When they renovated a 1938 Dolores Heights home ("Roof Access," p. 114), architects Eric Robinson and Kurt Melander called upon **George Slack Cabinetmakers** to design built-ins and a space-saving bed with 12 hidden drawers. For 25 years, Slack has created cabinetry and furniture for commercial and residential spaces. Inspired by Italian industrial designer Joe Colombo, Slack's own philosophy is "to try and make furniture as clean, simple and functional as possible." *George Slack Cabinetmakers, 757 Pennsylvania Ave., SF, 415-285-0772.*

ROOF ACCESS

Architects: Eric Robinson and Kurt Melander, Melander Architects, 212 Sutter St., 6th Fl., SF, 415-981-7087, melanderarchitects.com; Contractor: Robert Vranizan, V & Co. Fine Builders, 2535 24th St., SF, 415-648-8779, vandcompany.net; Millworker: George Slack Cabinetmakers, 757 Pennsylvania Ave., SF, 415-285-0772; Structural engineer: Shaun Moynahan, 360 Langton St., Ste. 304, SF, 415-553-8810; Solar panels: Jack West, High Sun Engineering, 15925 Birkhofer Rd., Guerneville, 707-869-9391, sunengineer.com.

PAGES 114-115 (MASTER SUITE) Chair and ottoman: Crate & Barrel, 55 Stockton St., SF, 415-982-5200, crateandbarrel.com; Floors: Robert Vranizan, V & Co. Fine Builders, 2535 24th St., SF, 415-648-8779, vandcompany.net; Shelving: George Slack Cabinetmakers, 757 Pennsylvania Ave., SF, 415-285-0772; Sliding doors: Fleetwood Windows & Doors, 395 Smitty Way, Corona, 800-736-7363, fleetwoodusa.com.

PAGE 116 (KITCHEN NOOK) Table: TriMark Economy Restaurant Fixtures, 1200 Seventh St., SF, 415-626-5611, abcvaluline.com; Chairs: Donghia, 101 Henry Adams St., SF, 415-861-7717, donghia.com; Elevator: McKinley Elevator Corporation, 28301 Industrial Blvd., Ste. S, 510-300-1599, mckinleyelevator.com; Cabinets: George Slack Cabinetmakers, 757 Pennsylvania Ave., SF, 415-285-0772.

PAGE 116 (KITCHEN) Elevator: McKinley Elevator Corporation, 28301 Industrial Blvd., Ste. S, 510-300-1599, mckinleyelevator.com; Cabinets: George Slack Cabinetmakers, 757 Pennsylvania Ave., SF, 415-285-0772; Screen: Evelyn's Antique Chinese Furniture, 381 Hayes St., SF, 415-255-1815, evelynantique.com.

PAGE 117 (FAMILY ROOM) Sofa and ottomans: Room & Board, 685 Seventh St., SF, 415-252-9280, roomandboard.com; Chairs: Pottery Barn, 2390 Market St., SF, 415-861-0800, potterybarn.com.

PAGES 118-119 (BEDROOM) Bed: George Slack Cabinetmakers, 757 Pennsylvania Ave., SF, 415-285-0772; Chair and ottoman: Crate & Barrel, 55 Stockton St., SF, 415-982-5200, crateandbarrel.com; Floors: Robert Vranizan, V & Co. Fine Builders, 2535 24th St., SF, 415-648-8779, vandcompany.net; Sliding doors: Fleetwood Windows & Doors, 395 Smitty Way, Corona, 800-736-7363, fleetwoodusa.com.

PAGE 119 (BATHROOM) Stone: Integrated Resources Group, 275 Valley Dr., Brisbane, 415-657-0280, marblecompany.com; Fixtures and mirror: The Bath + Beyond, 77 Connecticut St., SF, 415-552-5001, bathandbeyond.com.

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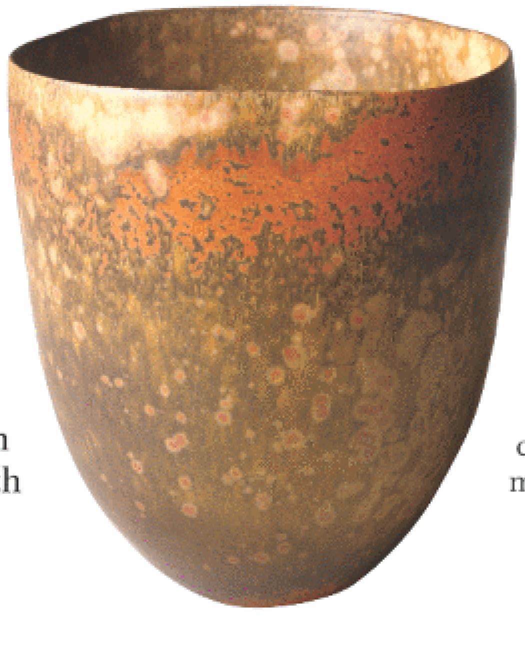
THE REVIVALIST

THROUGH A LIFETIME OF IMPASSIONED EXPERIMENTATION, LAURA ANDRESON HELPED TO BRING THE ART OF STUDIO POTTERY INTO THE MODERN ERA. BY ALLISON CASASSA

"We should always be inspired by the finest examples [of ceramics] from all times, and try to enjoy the qualities from every age that come from experimentation," said ceramicist Laura Andreson. Starting in the 1930s, a time when handcrafting pottery was nearly a lost art, Andreson devoted herself to working with clay. She started with earthenware and stoneware before moving on to porcelain, which is regarded as the most difficult clay to work with. She eventually became an authority on the buttery-soft medium, developing innovative glazing and firing techniques.

Born in San Bernardino in 1902, Andreson went to UCLA, where she studied art and ceramics. At the end of her first year, she developed tuberculosis and spent six months confined to her bed, an experience to which she later attributed the patience she needed for her experiments with pottery. In 1934, two years after graduating with an art degree, she established the ceramics department at UCLA, where she would teach for nearly four decades. Out of the classroom, much of her time was devoted to research. She started out by creating slab-built and slip-cast earthenware, and with the help of fellow potter Gertrude Natzler, learned how to use a pottery wheel. Andreson became an expert in throwing porcelain, and her inventive porcelain glazes, which continue to inspire ceramic artists today, became the starting point for her pieces. "When I get a good glaze, then I think: What would be the appropriate form for this to be placed on?" she said.

Andreson's extensive international travel in the '50s informed her personal aesthetic. Her porcelain forms notably combined the clean lines of Scandinavian design with the hues of Asian glazes, and are part of the permanent collections at MoMA in New York and San Diego's Mingei International Museum. ■



Laura Andreson was captured by photographer Imogen Cunningham (whose images are currently on exhibit at the new Cavallo Point hotel in Sausalito); Andreson's hand-thrown porcelain vessels include a 1976 iron crystal-glazed vase (left) and a 1969 matte-glazed bottle (right).

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF THE IMOGEN CUNNINGHAM TRUST; OTHER IMAGES COURTESY OF THE MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

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